



BARBARA AMIEL:
Understanding
Michael's drug
habits P.9

**LILAC
WARS**
P.44

TORONTO STINKS

How Canada's
biggest city got to be
such a mess P.22

**Steyn &
Feschuk on
political sex
scandals**
P.52

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JULY
27th
2009

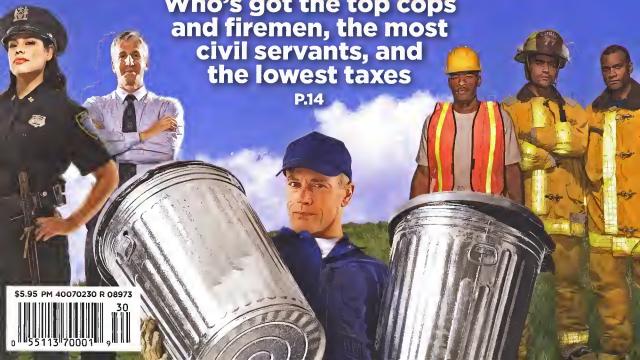
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Understanding
Michael's drug
habits p.9

**LILAC
WARS**
P.44

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF
Canada's 'bogus'
peacekeeping record
P.26

**Steyn &
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political sex
scandals**
P.52

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TORONTO STINKS

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a summer garbage
strike. How Canada's
biggest city got itself
into this mess.

P.22

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"My tennis game has never been better!"

NAME: Jean AGE: 60

SYMPTOMS: Pain and stiffness in the wrist

DIAGNOSIS: Osteoarthritis (OA)

"Ever since I was a teenager, I've loved playing tennis during the summer months. But a few years ago it became increasingly difficult to play, due to pain in my wrist. Unfortunately, my doctor told me that it's osteoarthritis. It's an incurable condition, and while the pain can be controlled with pain relief medication, most pain relievers upset my stomach. So my doctor prescribed a non-steroid anti-inflammatory medication. It reduced the pain in my wrist without making my stomach ache. So now I'm at the court every day, without pain and discomfort!"

If you live with joint pain like Jean, it could be osteoarthritis. It's caused when cartilage between the joints breaks down causing joint pain and stiffness. Osteoarthritis affects millions of Canadian adults and can cause significant disability. There's no cure, but you can manage the pain and enjoy an active, healthy lifestyle. Some medications may cause upset stomach, diarrhea and abdominal pain, even ulcers, so talk to your doctor about pain medication with fewer gastrointestinal side effects.

Feel good without feeling bad!
For more information on living with arthritis and the importance of healthy lifestyles, visit

www.feelgoodfeelbad.ca

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CANADIANS ARE asleep at the wheel when it comes to our peacekeeping duties, said Michael Ignatieff in a 2006 speech in Dublin.

THIS WEEK

Interview

12 | WARREN HOOD
Colin Campbell talks to the former CFL quarterback about his new memoir

Columns

9 | BARBARA AMEL
Michael Jackson says I'll be there. No one was for him.

10 | PAUL WELLS
Don't count on this trade with the EU any time soon

11 | CAPITAL DUNEY
Mitchel Rapoport on the NDP MP who got bullying from a Tory, and the Liberal dives

National

14 | CITIES
Maclean's exclusive survey of municipal effectiveness

16 | FIRST AND WORST RUN
Which city gives taxpayers the most bang for their buck? Which could do better?

22 | TORONTO STINGS
Canada's largest city has bigger troubles than a strike

26 | TOUGH TALK
When Michael Ignatieff trashed Canada

MACLEAN'S

VOLUME 132 NUMBER 23, JULY 27, 2009 • SINCE 1905

3 | From the Editors 4 | Mail Bag
6 | Seven Days 7 | Newsmakers

JULY 27-AUG. 3, 2009

THEir BACK PAGES

- 44 | Bomber**
The war over Iraq that just keeps blooming
- 47 | TV**
The latest *Recherchers* is a wild ride from Alberta
- 48 | Film**
A British comedy about the Iraq war exceeds expectations
- 49 | Taste**
Jacob Reicher discusses the decline of Schwartz's
- 50 | Media**
Say it ain't so, G.I. Joe: Hollywood turns into TV animation
- 51 | Books**
The real-life intrigue of *The Gulf with the Dragon Tattoo*
- 52 | Stage**
Diplomatic dances and tempestuousities
- 55 | Football**
Where's our share of savvy politicians?
- 56 | The End**
Angela Rachel Leanne Gail Holm, 1993-2009

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National (cont'd)

27 | BIG FISH, TINY TOWN
In a town of 60 people, cash for families with kids

World

28 | NO JUSTICE
Why is a man who took down a tyrant unwelcome here?

32 | VIRGINITY TESTS
Some secrets, Indian brides, Malaysians drop English

Business

33 | LIVE FREE OR DIE
This is just another word for nothing left to lose

35 | OMA DECIDING
Tests that gauge your susceptibility to disease

38 | ECONOWATCH
Latest news on the economy

Unconventional

39 | REACHING HIGHER
The challenges facing Canada's leading universities

39 | HOW DO WE STACK UP?
Comparing Canadian and international schools

Health

41 | THE REAL CARRIAGE
The recycled or an experience really can make you sick

Society

42 | BARRY SURPRISE
The danger of pregnancy

'Rather than tear down 24 Sussex, why not call Mike Holmes and let him have a go at it?'

O CANADA

HOW DOES it read: something interesting, pertinent and downright compelling story about Canada ("The best place on earth," Special Report, July 6). Why it's almost like bragging. Let's have more!
Alan Goss, Halifax

NO CANADIAN man have an average of 23 social partners and Canadian women have an average of 30 partners during their lifetimes ("Are we talking yet?" Special Report, July 6), and this makes us a land of great love! In fact, these numbers prove just the opposite. The reason of true love goes down having lost of social partners. The number in the survey only prove that Canadians have real difficulty finding true, lasting love.
Harry Kneisler, Smithers, B.C.

MATHEMATICAL, the average number of social partners in life is not to be the same for males as for females. Your survey found that males averaged 23 partners, whereas females averaged 30 partners, a bigger discrepancy than the other countries listed. Perhaps the appropriate conclusion should be that Canada has the biggest number of bars, or the biggest difference between the number of guys and the number of lesbians.
Gordon Fawcett, Halifax

MATTER OF PRINCIPALS

I QUOTE enjoyed the article "Why it's so hard to find head teachers" (Education, July 6) until I read the principal's comment: "We're nervous. We're not used to fire people." If the school administration finds that they're not headteachers, then it's fire people, then it's tell us they don't have proper skills to hire people either. Incompetence starts at the very top.
Brendan McIlroy, Thornhill, Ont.

THIS ARTICLE reminded me of how many of my teaching colleagues were regularly chosen by weak, off-the-board principals who changed from competent classroom teachers into incompetents, personal perpetrators of the "don't make a wave" philosophy of education. After I became a district coordinator, I learned that efforts to improve or correct teachers' performance were nothing more than weak hints designed to silence or control genuine educators who were conscientiously doing their best to help their students

become successful. Indeed, our kids do pay a terrible price when their future well-being is put at risk by such rampant political passions. I only pray our children aren't enough good teachers to offset this administrative mess.
Walt Conway, London, Ont.

WHEN I RESEARCHED for Edman's public schools in the 1980s, we find that if we had the right people to start with, we would not be faced with terminating teachers who were hurting students. We were able to counsel ineffective teachers out of the profession, buy out their contracts and work toward



finding them alternative employment. The teachers were not any happier in the classroom than the system was about having them in the classroom. The teachers thrived as for getting them out of their situation and, in some cases, we had to have the strip across.
Patrick Dawson, Coram, B.C.

OUR DAUGHTER has had teachers who don't read their spelling words until the day before the spelling test, and even spelling has been the teacher's excuse. My daughter's teacher who didn't know the math they were teaching them. Assignments get handed in and scored to go into a black hole. This has happened in both private and public schools—we've complained to principals and nothing is done. It is mind-boggling that these people seem to be any sort of disciplinary system in place unless a

teacher has gone so far as to molest a child. All this, and our daughter is only in Grade 5. I would not in itself still like.
Carol and Jim Doherty, Victoria

THERE'S JUST NO DEFENCE

IT'S LAUGHABLE that Paul Champagne's \$100-million fraud occurred under the noses and with the knowledge of some people at the Department of Natural Resources ("Chamagne victims," National, July 6). What happened to the bureaucrats who encouraged this type of illegal billing to fill their budgets? What kind of Defence Department do we have? If they can't defend and protect their own department, what are they doing for the country?
Monica Baker, Colchester, Ont.

BACK IN the early '90s, I sold computers to a lot of different government agencies, guys would buy computer supplies from me that would then be turned on a train, unattended, just to make sure the budget was spent for that year. Paul Champagne wasn't a bug in some of these other government employees who are probably still smiling and getting taxpayers to pay the bill. Also, the big computer companies who don't have to be taxed? That's a bunch of bull.
Ewen Brown, Toronto

FOR GOOD REASON, the Canadian justice system has been under attack by those of us outraged by the brutality awarded these convicted of serious offences. Paul Champagne stole \$100 million from Canadian taxpayers and spends 14 months in prison. Not a bad trade off. I'd wager Bernie Litaloff—be of the 77-year sentence—what he was a Canadian citizen.
Barry Meyers, Victoria

HACKING AT HERITAGE

PAUL WELLS's appetite for demolishing 24 Sussex is wrongheaded and irresponsible ("It's time to tear down 24 Sussex," Opinion, July 6). The Prime Minister's residence has acquired heritage value because of its checked past and its evolving form. But whether a building has heritage value or not, our first interest should be to reuse and recycle what is arguably our largest common good. The article suggests that a new residence for the PM can be green—but the green building

is the one that already exists. The current official residence represents a significant investment of effort and materials; it can be retrofitted to meet energy performance standards, and many of its spaces can still be repaired and upgraded to last for centuries. We should expect the government to show leadership by reusing and recycling 24 Sussex, and avoiding a green heritage case study that will make Canadians proud.
Nicola Bell, Keweenaw District, Heritage Canada Foundation, Ottawa

RATHER THAN tear the sucker down, as Paul Wells suggests, why not call in JAGTV's Mike Holmes and let him have a go at it? Imagine him walking through the joint, an outcry at some of the half-baked ideas, and watch him ship it into shape on national television. Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen can make a cameo appearance at the end as the grateful homeowners accepting the improved property.
Bruce Galt, Toronto

IN CALLING for the demolition of 24 Sussex, Paul Wells says, "Just think of the arena has a new public works project would pay off." Recent new construction is 50 per cent materials and equipment and 50 per cent labour; while renovation is 75 per cent labour and 25 per cent materials. What provides more stimulus to the Ottawa construction market? The official residence is a perfectly good house, and can be renovated and brought up to appropriate standards by any number of talented renovation architects in Canada.
Lloyd Allen, President, Architectural Concreteness of Ontario, Toronto

NOT TOO LOUD NOW

BOUNCE! editorial ("Why speaking softly now about 24 Sussex with 'Lies' From the Editors") is only partly correct. Yes, expressions of principle by Western leaders do drive change; they speak to the domestic audience, they send a message of support to beleaguered protesters, and they win the human respect that the rest of the world is watching. However, President Barack Obama, the leader of the world's most powerful state, is who we to speak really softly. Democracy must be free in a position where I will need to buy them instead of making my shopping cart. Let's get to the big culprits, such as ocean poisoning. If we could ban over-wrapped items, I would be a happy camper.
Martha McArthur, Toronto

OBAMA and his staff need to get strong for the first time in his presidency and fully support the protection on the ocean of Taiwan. If the mainlanders are overthrown, Heilshilf

and Hamae will likely be defeated by Israel due to bankruptcy, and North Korea will lose a main funder for its nuclear missile programs. Multinational forces in Iraq and Afghanistan will be much easier to bring to heel if the influence is removed. This is a worldwide security issue.
Daniel Macdonald, Toronto



"MOST PEOPLE" reuse shopping bags. Why not look at the waste in excess of packaging?"

NIXED BAGS

YOUR ARTICLE "Battle of the bag" (Business, July 6) argues that plastic bags may not be a huge retail problem, but they are a problem away from home. After my weekly stop to get to home to large amounts of plastic, especially if I need to buy two or three items per bag, man. I now use the reusable bags because they hold more, are sturdier and pack more efficiently. As for the business community, more suggestions that Canadians are not engaged to actually work or cook the food they bring home, either in a plastic or reusable bag. Honestly, people. Wash the bags. Wash your apples. Cook your meat. Don't use the more bag for your great ideas as you use for your food. Here's to doing what we can to protect our core of the planet, one bag at a time.
Eleanor Allen, Ottawa

I NEED MY plastic bags as garbage bags, and think that it is ludicrous that I might be put in a position where I will need to buy them instead of making my shopping cart. Let's get to the big culprits, such as ocean poisoning. If we could ban over-wrapped items, I would be a happy camper.
Martha McArthur, Toronto

than look at a truly holistic green strategy involving all facets of our wasteful society.
Jonathan Ross, Calgary

REDUCING THE amount of these bags is not going to do a lot for our country's landfill. Why does no one question Canada's use of plastic bags in thousands of various industries?

WELL! A few-line purchase of milk uses four plastic bags, ones that aren't very reusable. Instead of going after shopping bags, which most people reuse, why not look at the way we package our products, and the bags waste that is created, until it's there?
Scott Poir, St. Catharines, Ont.

NO WORK, NO PLAY

YOUR ARTICLE about Gen Y's optimism ("No problem, they're 'unemployed,'" Society, July 6) was misleading. Most of us are comfortable with the thought of still working off our parents at the age of 33 while we are unemployed or underemployed. Many recent grads have massive student loans that will come due in only a few months. Starting your career on a recession or depression year will translate into lower real wages over your entire lifetime. I recently graduated with distinction and 36 months of unpaid experience. After hundreds of applications and half a dozen interviews, I felt defeated by the job market. Your article's attempt to make unemployment sound like fun was offensive.
Ashley Weiss, Oakville, Ont.

We welcome readers to submit letters to other letters@maclean.ca or to Maclean's, 1100 King Street West, Toronto, Ont. M5X 1C5. Please supply your name, address and daytime telephone number. Letters should be under 300 words, and may be edited for space, style and clarity.

THIS WEEK



A LIFE IN THE LIFE OF STEPHEN HARPER

The PM earned kudos from Sir Bob Geldof for his stand on Africa and. But his good work at the G8 summit in Italy was overshadowed by gruffness and controversy. Part Harper was accused of poisoning a contentious water act in state flower. Then he publicly attacked Michael Ignatieff for something he never said, sparred with the parliamentary budget officer, charged tack on the deficit and almost missed the photo call (again). Who says Canadian politics is boring?

THIS WEEK

NEWSMAKERS

Good news

Pit gars, big honour

The Queen has named former prime minister Jean Chrétien into the Order of Merit, placing him in the exclusive company of such notables as Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa and Albert Schweitzer. The award, founded in 1903, is for "individuals of exceptional distinction." Chrétien becomes the third Canadian PM to be admitted to the very exclusive club—just 14 Brits, plus a handful of foreigners—following in the footsteps of Wilham Lyon Mackenzie King and Lester B. Pearson. After 46 years of public service, he deserves it, and our warmest congratulations. We assume the former PM won't feel obliged to follow the precedent he set for General Black and choose between the honour and his Canadian citizenship.

Bye-bye Karlheinz

The Ontario Court of Appeal has put an end to Karlheinz Schreiber's legal shenanigans, ruling the federal justice minister doesn't have to keep responding to his endless questions. This ends the last hurdle to the extradition of the German dealer back to his native Germany to face charges of car rapine and tax evasion. Now that both Schreiber and Brian Mulroney have had their say at the inquiry into their business dealings, it's clear the public is always going to be left with nagging questions, rather than full-on answers. It's time for Karlheinz to face his own account.

Bitchin' Camaro

Good news for auto workers: Chrysler has backed out of its plans to cut a third shift at its Windsor machine plant, saving 1,200 jobs part of a hoped-for trend that saw layoffs across

Bad news

Isotope dopes

Canada's Chalk River reactor, which usually produces one-third of the world's supply of medical isotopes, will be off-line until December of the year—or later, says Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. The Crown corporation took the facility out of service in mid-May when it spung a heavy water leak. Now come news that the Dutch reactor that has been picking up much of the slack is due to be off-line for a month for maintenance. Doctors, already

even happened to summer. And the long-term forecast isn't any better. An El Niño is building in the Pacific, say scientists, a sure indication of more rainy weather to come. During the last big one in 1997-'98, California experienced torrential downpours, Australia and Brazil faced under extreme heat waves, and the African continent was under water, eroding its shores. It all begs the question, when was the weather ever good?

Party poopers

Panoramic jumpsuit that he had to be included in the Vancouver 2010 Games when a B.C. court ruled that doesn't have the jurisdiction to tell the International Olympic Committee to join the 2010 ceremony. Recently unveiled Olympic special will be designed "free speech" protest series—put the belief—and the installation of 100 closed-circuit TV cameras. Residents of Whistler are trying to get severely about Olympic-related racism and over money issues. And Ottawa has removed more than 1,000 tickets to organizers as part of government security measures but just now, or is the party starting to sound a little lame?

Cruel Britannia

An act of kindness ended up being a royal pain for Queen Elizabeth II. When the skies opened up during one of her summer garden parties last week, the Queen avoided 60 seated members of the public to take shelter in her personal tent. But in so doing she caused great concern by making off with several pieces of antique silverware, and cups and saucers from her treasury's great collection. When were the cups when all this was happening? #

conceding with a source supply, fear what may happen next. Given the probability of this on—and the on-and-on-term that down last winter—shouldn't somebody in Ottawa have thought of a backup plan?

Weather watch?

Patched Alberta and Saskatchewan. Finally got some rain this past week, but too late for many farmers whose crops have failed, or never made it into the ground. Meanwhile, below-average temperatures have snuffed out wheat and barley. Canada's first warning (in July) warning what

FACE OF THE WEEK



ACTRESS EMMA WATSON (left) as Hermione Granger at last week's New York premiere of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

Four-letter cure

Swearing actually does make it easier to withstand stress, according to a new study. Researchers in England asked volunteers to submerge their hands in a tub of ice water for as long as possible. One group was told to stay where, the other asked to curse. The prissy-mouths were able to keep their hands in significantly longer. Scientists think swearing may trigger the body's "fight or flight" response, helping to buffer pain. But will this all lead to some sort of recovery word? Sorry 'n' and call me in the morning.



KIM JONG IL

Kim Jong Il?

South Korean spywatch North Korea, Asia's only Communist dynasty, and so might be the geopolitics of the region, that the master idea of health trouble for its leader, Kim Jong Il, sent off international alarm. So it was this week when South Korea's YTN television, citing Korean and Chinese intelligence sources, reported that the 67-year-old has pancreatic cancer, and, at best, five years to live. In his recent appearance, Kim has looked gaunt, with changing hair, a limp and an apparent fear to his mouth, indications he's not entirely recovered from a stroke last year. Rumored first that Kim no longer has a world-class Seoul's main hospitals to plan, to avoid as much publicity as his health problems. Though he's said to have named his youngest son, the 36-year-old Kim Jong Un, as his successor, there's concern the installation of a weak leader still in his mid-30s will destabilize the regime and the region.



What's wrong with being sexy?

Shannon Tweed, the Canadian adult film star, has been denied recognition for such contributions to world cinema as *Hard* (with Michael Schenker) and *But*

4. *Poll Exposure* and *Censored Women in the Assault* (Jungle of Death). "But I've never had real sex on camera." Ottawa, which recently disavowed its earlier content hosted by KISS, doesn't care either way. Ottawa city councillor Robert Lamb, who headed up the spring election effort, promised a "Shannon Tweed Bill" in Ottawa if she and the band came through town this fall. "I'll be there," said Tweed. "I'll be there."

Please speak up—the press is listening

Shelagh Wade, the *Spice* Brit journalist, approached chief executive of Rupert Murdoch's UK newspaper holdings last week, as well as several other media executives, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the *Spice* magazine's launch. She was briefly arrested in 2001 for allegedly molesting her first husband, the *Spice* editor-in-chief, Rocco Kopp. So it's appropriate that of her first interview she takes over as a September will be dealing with

as a real person. Fraser will play her wife, who doesn't like the idea of the situation. Steve Campbell and Jim Carey had reportedly expressed interest in the script, but after the discovery of strange behavior and several breakdowns, the producers picked Graham. He's an old friend of Fraser's, whom she described as "honest, loyal and kind" in the wake of his 2006 DUI arrest.

Guest lecturer: Garth Drabinsky

Toronto defence lawyer Edward Greenbaum enlists brother Brian Greenbaum (played for extreme lechery in last week's *Intervening*) to bring Garth Drabinsky and Myra Goffman, co-founders of the defence theatre company *Living*, who were in

eros and espionage. It was revealed that his past secretary, David Squire, had secretly attended a Queen's to Liberal leader. The question, about Canada's international role, belonged instead to Gordon Smith, director of the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria and a former deputy minister of foreign affairs. Squire apologized to Ignatieff and Harper, and through town this fall. "I'll be there," said Tweed. "I'll be there."

Talk to the hand

Mal Gibson gave up screen stardom to concentrate on conducting ultra-violent religious wars. Now he's getting back into acting, and his latest project will team him with another action-star-turned-director. *Jackie* (Gibson will play a man who deals with his depression by talking to a hand puppet and making that everyone treat

as a real person. Fraser will play her wife, who doesn't like the idea of the situation. Steve Campbell and Jim Carey had reportedly expressed interest in the script, but after the discovery of strange behavior and several breakdowns,

the producers picked Graham. He's an old friend of Fraser's, whom she described as "honest, loyal and kind" in the wake of his 2006 DUI arrest.

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vented in March of two counts of fraud and one each of forgery, crimes punishable by up to 14 years in prison. The Ovens sold for a total of eight to 40 years while the Ovensers proposed two-year conditional sentences, which would entail no jail time but rather house arrest and community service that could include a speaking tour at Christian universities. Ovens could lie on an "rhe discipline of the end, the maximum role that integrity and honesty play in the theatre... [and] the avoidance of spiritual conduct," Edward posited. The Ovenses also submitted 46 letters of support for their clients from luminaries, among them Christopher Plummer, Karen Kain, and Peter Godwin, former chairman and CEO of the Board of Nova Scotia. Madison Justice Mary Lou Bennett will hand down her sentence on Aug. 5.



GURNEY DIEFENDENZ

own first bid for a campaign short-lived for "high end level." They, who declined the comment and read from her page, claimed that she was applying to an employer and "was not aware of the racial concerns until sometime later." But further digging revealed that she made some other controversial comments online. While some Young Republicanist asked her to step down before the vote, they supported the candidacy up to political crushing.

Video vengeance

Halfstar musician Dave Carroll established into cyber-celebrity last week after his stellar revenge ditty, *United Breaks Guitars*, posted Monday on YouTube, went viral. The song, chronicling the loss of Carroll's first guitar, the son of Maxwell lead singer's frustrated attempts to recover the \$1,100 he paid to repair his Taylor guitar after it was allegedly damaged intentionally by a United Airlines baggage handler in 2008. Carroll describes the instrument as "the victim of a vicious act of malice" and his experience with the airline as a "year-long saga of pain the gods." "Don't blame me and I'm sorry, sir, your client can go nowhere." By week's end, the video had received more than 2.5 million views. United found time to arrange a meeting with Carroll in which it agreed to donate \$1,000 to the



DAVE CARROLL

Please, please Mr. Pontman

Dale Tullon was demoted from general manager to "senior advisor" of the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks after an administrative screw-up cost the team all four of dollars.

According to league rules, teams must file a roster contract with the league no later than 10 days before the first game of the season. The Blackhawks qualified their offer to several players and they didn't arrive until after the deadline. The NHL Players' Association claimed they should be declared free agents, and thus entitled to much larger contracts. The Hawks made peace with the players, signing young star Kris Versteeg and Chris Barker each for over \$5 million per season. But they didn't use their machine

and meet the deadline the team likely couldn't sign both players for around \$1.7 million combined. Stan Bowman, son of legendary coach Scotty Bowman, is Tullon's replacement.

The Old Man and the KGB

Ernest Hemingway, the Nobel Prize-winning novelist and the defining American literary figure of the 20th century, was a KGB agent code named "Agent" who "repeatedly expressed his desire and willingness to help" Vladimir Putin during clandestine meetings with his Soviet handlers in London and Havana. The revelation is contained in *Spirits: The Rise and Fall of the KGB in America*, a new book that uses rare KGB-era archival material to explore the extent of the Soviet spy agency's recruiting in the U.S. in the last century. The book calls Hemingway a "discreet spy" who was never "verified in practical work" and whose inability to "give us any political information" led the KGB to soon drop him. Hemingway's dabbling put him in the same category as hundreds of other Americans whose Communist sympathies led them to spy for Russia, including Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who, the book argues compellingly, were misled Soviet agents.

Yegudy in paradise
Armando Gutierrez, 77, the Monterey-based former light welterweight boxing champion, was found

strangled to death in his bed in the Brazilian room where he was staying within 21-year-old Brazilian wife Annanda Rodriguez Gutierrez, who became one of the most popular and admired fighters in the world, known for his fearless, boxing style, retired from the ring in 2007 with a career record of 60 wins and nine losses. Police say Gutierrez suffered a head wound and appears to have been strangled with a pants strap found in the room. Rodriguez being held in the "pink suspect" but hasn't yet been charged. According to Gutierrez's family, the couple had gone on a vacation in hopes of repairing their troubled relationship. ■



ERNEST HEMINGWAY



ANNANDA RODRIGUEZ GUTIERREZ

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/REUTERS

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MAKE YOUR DIP A PLUNGE

SUPERB SPINACH DIP

Prep Time: 15 min, plus refrigerating
Yields: 3 or 4 cups or 30 servings,
2 Tbsp (30 mL) each.

What You Need!

1/2 cup MIRACLE WHIP Dressing
1 1/2 cups sour cream
1 pkg. (10 oz) vegetable dry soup mix
1 pkg. (100 g) frozen chopped spinach,
thawed and drained
2/3 cup KRAFT 100% Parmesan Grated Cheese
1/2 cup chopped, dried red, green or water chestnuts
1 green onion, sliced

Make It!

1. Mix first 3 ingredients in large bowl.
2. Stir in remaining ingredients.
3. Refrigerate 2 hours.

Serve It!

Chilled. In a bowl or hollowed-out round loaf
with assorted crackers, chips, vegetables,
or bread.



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WE WILL
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OPINION



WHERE WERE all of Michael Jackson's celebrity friends back when he needed them most?

Hunted to death



BARBARA AMIEL

You might think life of the adult Michael Jackson isn't fully over the most cryptic to recall: removed by the Oct. 18, 1965, video of the Jacksons (featuring Michael Jackson on the *Shantae* show) being told to go home to pursue Jackson's musical career. The police investigation of the death of the 12-year-old Jackson was so extensive that it made him the subject of a book, *The Jacksons: A Family Portrait*, by Barbara Amiel. In 1965, Jackson was a child prodigy, a musical genius, and he was already an over-enthusiastic psychopharmacologist. Jackson's brain that drove him to pursue Jackson's musical career through child and then criminal charges for 12 years. Perhaps it was nothing more than wanting to be the next Michael Jackson that made him the subject of a book, *The Jacksons: A Family Portrait*, by Barbara Amiel. In 1965, Jackson was a child prodigy, a musical genius, and he was already an over-enthusiastic psychopharmacologist. Jackson's brain that drove him to pursue Jackson's musical career through child and then criminal charges for 12 years. Perhaps it was nothing more than wanting to be the next Michael Jackson that made him the subject of a book, *The Jacksons: A Family Portrait*, by Barbara Amiel.

Mood: grey on Santa Barbara District Attorney Thomas Snodden became convinced Jackson was a child prodigy. Although the evidence of child molestation was not there, the length of Snodden's investigation was so extensive that it made him the subject of a book, *The Jacksons: A Family Portrait*, by Barbara Amiel. In 1965, Jackson was a child prodigy, a musical genius, and he was already an over-enthusiastic psychopharmacologist. Jackson's brain that drove him to pursue Jackson's musical career through child and then criminal charges for 12 years. Perhaps it was nothing more than wanting to be the next Michael Jackson that made him the subject of a book, *The Jacksons: A Family Portrait*, by Barbara Amiel.

Crimes go in and out of fashion. In 1964, the 12-year-old Jackson was a child prodigy, a musical genius, and he was already an over-enthusiastic psychopharmacologist. Jackson's brain that drove him to pursue Jackson's musical career through child and then criminal charges for 12 years. Perhaps it was nothing more than wanting to be the next Michael Jackson that made him the subject of a book, *The Jacksons: A Family Portrait*, by Barbara Amiel.

For one, he had a great brain. I thought CNN's pretty boy Don Lemon was going to touch on this with *Real Al Sharpton*, who had made some angry remarks about the press on Jackson. "I have to ask

you this because I'm a journalist," Lemon said apologetically, what appeared to be a real sense. We're actually going to ask when all the cake had gone during Michael's tributes?" Lemon said, "I'm a journalist," Lemon said apologetically, what appeared to be a real sense. We're actually going to ask when all the cake had gone during Michael's tributes?" Lemon said, "I'm a journalist," Lemon said apologetically, what appeared to be a real sense. We're actually going to ask when all the cake had gone during Michael's tributes?"

After Michael's death, almost everyone identified themselves as friends, rather like every *Freemason* being a member of the *Resurrection*. Unfortunately, between 2005 and June 25, 2009, their public calendar didn't include Michael in any subsequent way. Where was Oprah when not supporting Obama (whose election Sharpton credited Michael with making possible)? Where was Jay Leno, who so kindly mentioned their dinner together? Madonna told the world that Michael was one of the greatest artists of all time. I can't blame anyone for ignoring it. It was too bad to ignore it when the association might have been a good thing, but perhaps it would be more timely now to either report one's own silence publicly or keep one's own silence privately. Where, after all, was *Brooke Shields*, up there crying on the podium but not having seen him for 15 years? The closest to public support was ABC's *Barbara Walters* talking to the late John "Symphony" ... then Jackson" after viewing the 1965 *Shantae* video in which Michael talked about sharing his bed with children. "It's very lonely," Michael said, a statement that was Snodden's justification to prosecute the police and that is currently being contested by *Barbara Amiel* as a statement of "no wrongdoing by Michael." First, but it was this bad showing of Jackson that made it possible to think that perhaps Jackson had molested his underage girls.

Post mortem service, the *bandwagon* moved on to Jackson's issue of *conception*. However, it was not the end of the world. *Nancy Grace* can't wait for the nextology report. Dr. Drew Pinsky (author of *The Mirror Effect: How Celebrity Narcissism is Seducing America*) looked pretty serious himself, as he didn't analyze Jackson's medication on his show. True, but Michael not taking massive amounts of medication, he might have lived to be 90 and most likely the world would never have had that moonwalking King of Pop, only another good performer. They certainly wouldn't have had a 10-year-old man preparing for 90 shows more physically demanding than most 10-year-olds could handle. But those pills were there to help him keep his going physically.

When you are hunted day and night, when each day you wake up in a mental hospital where nothing can be said on it, your bed-room door may be broken down any moment in the name of the law, you cannot know

which businessmen, employees or youth will be a suit against you and your bail in the world's most expensive parole for anyone that 16 years, well, there is no way to make up without a million dollars. More and more of it will be demanded the impossible of yourself.

Michael was bleeding from a million cuts. How much did it cost to handle. Helen Thel's brother's emotional distress was? Not a familiar name? Just a US\$100 million and suit started in 2006, ultimately, appealed, reinstated, costs awarded to Helen-Thel and motions still being filed in June 2009. Multiple thousands by hundreds of thousands, the defendants, lawyers, witnesses, tearing away at Jackson's equilibrium—very well balanced to begin with—lawyers and playing like first in America where tort law is a private industry inflicting the soul of the country, and the wonder is he kept going at it.

I haven't a clue about the specifics of his death, but I'm pretty sure what caused it. Not the medicine in syringes and capsules, not on the butters in black lab robes or the ones carrying cameras. What caused Jackson's death was an ambition to do a lot larger than his first body-rod trade and a culture that made more living off him than it could ever have made by doing "them" it.

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Why free trade with the EU goes nowhere



PAUL WELLS

The occasion was a recent economic conference in Montreal. The place was crawling with reporters, but the president of Colombia was in town so none of the reports in the boardroom could be one particular breakfast session. Well, almost none.

The topic at the breakfast was trade between Canada and the European Union. Guests included Roy McMeekan, the former trade minister under Jean Chrétien, who runs something called the Canada-Europe Round Table. Also Ron Harbrey, Canada's ambassador to the EU.

But there was another, unannounced visitor: Maureen Percicione, the director for European trade relations for the European Commission. The Europeans' lead negotiator for a proposed broad, deep trade and

investment deal with Canada. The best possible source for information on these crucial talks.

But for the longest time Percicione, a pleasant man with wavy hair and an impeccably tailored sports jacket, smiled blankly and refused his colleagues' attempts to draw him into their conversation. "We'll keep it for the end," he said.

While the visitors bided their time, Maureen explained the value of the opportunity. Europe is Canada's second biggest trading partner after the United States. Canada's European trade. Overturn to the EU are worth \$16 billion. Their to Canada are worth \$45 billion. We have \$117 billion in direct investment assets in the EU. They have \$113 billion invested here. And there is unexplored potential. Europe trades less with Canada than with some other economies of similar size.

Be let's free trade? Easier said than done, said McMeekan, who was fondly gloating. Percicione's answer gaped at plotting. "We have in Canada the education system of supply management as the dairy and poultry industry," he said, "and the Europeans have an array of remarkably ingenious subsidies. It's hard to guess. I would assume that what we would like in the negotiation is that we'll identify particular forms of protection that we can't readily deal with in a Canada-EU bilateral negotiation."

In other words, nothing would change. It wouldn't be the first time. Canada and the EU agree the trade was negotiating a trade agreement that fell apart over the usual subsidies on both sides, and negotiators' refusal to abandon local preferences for their long-held protection and service contracts.

The lead Canadian negotiator, who will face Percicione after the negotiating sessions between now and the end of 2011, is Steve Verheul. He's Canada's agricultural trade negotiator at the WTO round that fell apart after more big wars—mainly in Canada—refused to give up agricultural subsidies.

When Percicione finally spoke, he had a lot to say. But he explained why the European Commission's so-called seriousness and the EU's brain, if that one had spent two years dismantling the idea of trade talks with Canada. "Most people who are usually in favour of free trade, both in Canada and the EU, have been scared," he said. "They have free trade. They have no obstacles." But those in other sectors who were protectionists had it and won't give it up easily. "So if you

ask the supporters, 'Do you want to have an agreement,' the answer is, 'Of course, yes.' You ask them how many resources they are prepared to commit to lobby to overcome the difficulties, then you get a much less committed reply.

"On the other hand, if you ask the few who are still protectionist, they will commit any resources they have to keep the status quo."

If this negotiation is so stalled, each side will have to give up what it hasn't been prepared to give up before. Percicione portrayed the Europeans as late but serious negotiators. He always came trade talks with a detailed mandate from European trade ministers. In 20 years, no trade negotiation has been given such a moderate move rapidly than he made for Canada round.

"We are committed to this negotiation," he said. "We are prepared to go into all the details no one else. There are no other way to make progress."

But with a veteran diplomat's polished grace, Percicione asked whether Canada is accustomed. Consequently, he was not going to be in the end of the day. "I must confess we are working with some interest... I think that is a huge test for Canada." Some Canadians are already trying. Quebec's Jean Charest has named one of his predecessors, Pierre Marc Johnson, as the province's lead negotiator for the EU trade. It is a demonstration of his seriousness.

But up to now the provinces have been asked to keep one another out that they are reluctant to let European investors in on the same terms as locals. "I could take the easy way out and say it's Canada's problem to solve. But what I can do is that we have had regions to region negotiations [between the EU and other international partners] that we have suspended because our partners would not offer us the best fit as in a negotiation, equal so that we were offering."

That's the fact that weeks Canada if we try to bargain down to the same old trade routine. The arbiters' Union voters who found Canadians to go back to go home. "We will be equivalent to be in the future as we are prepared to offer." He ended at his fellow Canadian's question. "All I can say, I hope that Roy, Maureen and many others were dead right when they continued us."

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at macleans.ca/talkshowwith

CAPITAL DIARY

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON THE NDP MP WHO GOT BUBBY FROM A TORY AND THE LIBERAL DVA TROIKA

POST LAUREATE A TRAITOR?

Pierre DesRosaux in Canada's fourth parliamentary post laureate. At his April inauguration ceremony, his predecessor John Sledz had only two words for him: "Good luck." The post laureate with a \$200,000 stipend and up to \$13,000 in travel expenses. "The job is a very modestly having [read: no] interview," says DesRosaux. So far he has not written one poem. Senate Speaker Noël Kinsella asked him to sign a piece about maintaining the 150th anniversary of the Canadian navy. DesRosaux was not obliged to write any poems if he chooses his job description so much that he "may" do so, and may also do such things as sponsor poetry readings and advise the parliamentary librarian—what he has asked Kinsella if he could get one more ship for inspiration. Most people at DesRosaux's name laureate were not surprised to hear Post Laureate. It's mostly an English and French. It's not a good thing to be the post laureate in Quebec. It's not very easy. Some in Quebec, he says, call him "a traitor."

"I consider [the post] an honour. DesRosaux is hoping other politicians will call him and outline his services. "I don't have some power but it depends on the seriousness of the politicians. Do they take this post seriously or not? This is a question back again. They are mostly interested in other subjects."

REV. DR. JAZZ MOMENT

Cabinet minister Ron Ambrose and his wife, who were seated at the House, spent a short vacation together in Niagara on the Lake. They were for dinner at the Peller Estate Winery Restaurant with the wife of Justice Minister Rob Nicholson



POST LAUREATE Pierre DesRosaux (top left), then vice-chancellor of the University of Ottawa, with his wife, Jean Charest, and other officials including John Sledz, Jean Charest, and others.

When Ambrose got up from the table the new NDP MP Joe Costantino, who was there celebrating his 40th wedding anniversary. Ambrose asked to Nicholson, "Your sister is here?" She then sent three pages to Nicholson and his wife. Oda and Ambrose also gave a gift for the 150th of the Parliament of Canada and the 150th of the Confederation of Canada, and that she was pleased for it, as well as a Liberal press release regarding the government's end

to say to meet him. Ambrose dragged her over to say is

DIANE ARLONGEY'S DRAG QUEEN HISTORY

Conservative MP Brad Tuck's allegations that "Trans Minister of State Diane Arloney's decision to support the Conservative caucus, and that she was pleased for it, as well as a Liberal press release regarding the government's end

discretionary tourism policy." It quoted Vancouver's Hedy Fry, Montreal's Marlene Jennings and Toronto's Carolyn Bennett. All were extremely polite. Hedy Fry's other job contracts in the office of Liberal members of Parliament, including those of Oda, Diane Ross, and Madonna. "The decision," quoted Fry. Arloney's decision was not included in the caucus, prompting blogger Jeff Jones to note, "An interesting question whether Conservative ministers call the PMO before you've seen in public with any drag queens. My god, if they had that role under Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin, then Hedy Fry would have needed to see a 100 number." But this was not the first time Arloney had met with drag queens.

When Arloney was running for Canadian Alliance leader, drag queen Diana Ambrose had also been having trouble ring. Arloney's Arloney was "a class act, talked to one and encouraged me."

WILL PP AND MJ FFK RFP

Some think that Employment Insurance working group Michael Ignatieff and Stephen Harper formed to save off an election? The group is supposed to finally meet this week. But it's just for a "briefing." One member, Montreal Liberal MP Marlene Jennings, does not sound too impressed. "We are waiting for the government to get to us to get to us," she says. Other members of the group include Human Resources Minister Diane Finley and Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre, "or PP" if I like to call him," says Jennings, adding, "I don't know when people call me MP." The report is due by Sept. 18.

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa updates or to contact Mitchel Raphael, visit macleans.ca/mitchelraphael



Quarterback Warren Moon on Michael Vick, racism, and why he wouldn't trade his five Grey Cups for one Super Bowl win

A CONVERSATION WITH COLIN CAMPBELL

Warren Moon quarterbacked the Edmonton Eskimos to five straight Grey Cups before going on his 17-year career in the National Football League, retiring in 2003 at the age of 44. He is the only black quarterback in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He recently published a book, *Never Give Up On Your Dreams*.

Q You've said that playing in the CFL was one of your greatest career moments, but it never been there tough showing up in 2003 after winning the Rose Bowl with the University of Washington but getting no interest from any NFL team.

A It's definitely wasn't a goal of mine to have a great college career and then to go to the CFL to play. My dream had always been to play in the National Football League. But it also looked at the CFL as a great opportunity for me to keep playing football and to develop my game. I never thought I would have so much success so early in life in the CFL, and I never thought I'd enjoy it as much as I did.

Q A lot of people in your situation would have been better off being signed by the NFL.

A I was disappointed, but so much disappointment had happened to me before I got to that point, like the fact that I had to go to prison college to prove that I could play quarterback before I could go to a major college. Down in high school, my sophomore coach wouldn't let me play because he didn't think I could play quarterback. I understood

racism early and as I got older I just accepted it a little more and said, this is the way it's going to be.

Q Why were you so successful in the CFL? Was there less pressure?

A The biggest thing was, for me, you could really feel that I was only being judged by how I played on the field and that was it. I wasn't being judged by the outside of my skin. I never heard any type of racist slurs while I was up there. It was very refreshing to know that I could put pressure for a game, go out there and not have to worry about anything else.

Q When did you first feel you were being judged as a black quarterback rather than just a quarterback?

A I think in high school. My sophomore coach, Mel Ricks, really had a disdain for African-American quarterbacks. It was so clear and obvious, my ability over the guys he was starting.

Q It was surprising to read that when he collapsed and died some years later, you weren't upset.

A I wasn't happy, but I wasn't sad either. It bothered me at the time that I was fired away because I was a pretty compassionate kid. It wasn't like I wished that open him, but I wasn't upset when I heard the news.

Q You were from the CFL to Houston in 1984 and signed the highest NFL contract ever up to that point. How did that appear to a lowly CFL player who six years earlier had been rejected by the league?

A It was just the situation with free agency

that really kind of put me in a place where I could pick where I wanted to play. I wanted a bidding war between teams and that's something that had never happened before. But because I wasn't drafted and was a quarterback that people highly touted, it made my value go up.

Q So NFL teams were watching your CFL career?

A Oh yeah, they had tried to get me out of my contract the year before it actually came out. But there was a rule in my CFL contract, after three years, that I'd have to go to spend my whole career up there. That's how I was I was really enjoying it. We had so much success, like in the back of my mind I always wanted to see if I was good enough to play in the NFL.

Q In both Washington and your first NFL team in Houston, you had a couple of years where things weren't going well at all. How did you manage to turn things around?

A It's just winning. Winning seems to solve everything for fans, the media, the critics. That doesn't mean their own sense of underlying prejudice or bigotry inside of people. But it's hard for them to bring it out if you're winning. It's hard for them to tell you a name if you're winning touchdown passer. But as soon as things go negative and you're not winning, that's when the ugliness comes out.

Q In your book, *Never Give Up On Your Dreams*, you write about how your first four years at the University of Washington where you learned the difference between the crowd

yelling "Moses" and "Joe."

Q No question about it. The know the difference?

A You must have developed a thick skin. I really did, I think that's what helped me once I went to Houston. I knew I was going down to the South. I knew they had never had an African-American quarterback there. I was playing or starting. With the amount of money I was being paid, you know there was a lot of pressure. It was just a matter of time before it came out.

Q You mention in the book that you'd hate coaches being gay to calm your nerves.

A My mother taught me to cook at a very young age. To this day I do a lot of cooking. It gets my mind away from the pressures of the day. It's a way of creating things, and it's something I enjoy—cooking. Another thing I'd do after a game, whether we won or lost, is come home and start cleaning the house.

One of my buddies, Lorenzo Komar, told, "I've never seen a guy who on his way home from game would stop and buy some Windex and start washing his windows."

Q Your teammates had a few nicknames for you—Pope and Nola was it?

A I got those names early and I think it was because of my upbringing. I think that fatherly love my house as a very young age so I just instilled foster that most my age.

Q Your father died when you were seven and you grew up in Los Angeles at a time when gangs were growing in influence. For a lot of people, that's a recipe for disaster. How did you overcome that?

A At a lot of it was my mom. She kept me grounded in sports, obviously. In the summer I'd go to Bible school. There was Bob Scouts, Boy Scouts. Lots of things like that always kept me busy and on a schedule.

Q The coach that had a few coaches who helped as well.

A No question about it. All my football coaches were ex-politicians or on the police force. They were big disciplinarians. I really grew your attention when your coach pulls up in a squad car and parks in the lot for practice.

Q Was there one coach you can single out as the most important?

A Probably Joe Ruzena. He ended up being chief of police in Hollywood. He really got my attention when I was 15 playing quarterback. I threw an interception and came off the field and he looked at me and yelled, "Moses! Joe Ruz!" I'll never forget him telling me that. I remember going to the bench in tears. I didn't want anyone to see how much that hurt me. But from then on, my

whole attitude changed.

Q That's a mean thing to say to a coach to yell at on 10-year-old?

A Yeah, it really was. He came over and apologized for later. But look at it as, yeah, I wasn't playing well and I've got to do something about that. I took the negative and tried to make it a positive. But it hurt at the time.

Q You wrote that you felt like you carried the extra burden of playing for other black players. Looking back on your career, do you still feel like you made a big difference?

A That's one of the things I'm most proud of. When some guys before me like James Harris, Merlin Henson, and Joe Gilmore, guys who motivated me. I think when I got my chance to play, I felt like it was my responsibility to help other guys who were going to come after me. I think with what Doug Williams did, winning the first Super Bowl as an African-American quarterback, and then my own longevity, it opened a lot of people's eyes.

Q When Williams won the Super Bowl in 1980 you and you were crying. Did it bother you that you weren't the first?

A Yeah. That was one of my goals coming into the league, to be the first African-American to win a Super Bowl. Doug did it first. There was a little bit of envy, but a lot of joy that someone had finally done it.

Q Steve McNair, who was killed recently, was one of the players who followed in your footsteps. Did you know him?

A I knew Steve. He taught advice from me when he first came into the league. He told me I was one of the guys he looked up to when he was in high school. It was very flattering.

Q His career is a struggle with life after football. Is that a hard transition?

A It's a real tough transition, even for guys who are prepared for it. Your second career seems very abruptly. You don't know how to capture the same things you get from football, that high energy guy. Maybe in Steve's situation he didn't know exactly what he wanted to do. A lot of guys need that structure that football gives you.

Q Is your Hall of Fame acceptance speech you seemed so purposefully avoid talking a lot about race, and the troubles you faced in your career? Why?

A I didn't want that to override the accolade placement. Once when I played, I didn't want to be at the forefront of my career. It was there and I dealt with it. I wasn't going to be on a podium crying about it.

Q What do you think about Michael Vick's suspension and drug-fighting charges?

A As I thought it was harsh. I don't think the penalty fit the crime. But that's always concerning for animals, more than human beings sometimes.

Q A lot of people have argued that a white quarterback wouldn't have been treated the same way.

A Again, that doesn't even though we've come a long way in some respects there's still a lot that cut that out.

Q Looking back at your career, one of the big low points was the 1995 playoff collapse against Buffalo that's known simply as "the coin-toss." What happened?

A We got off to a great start, but once we got into the game was just bad. A natural letup. For me, even after a game with momentum change like that. It's one of those games you were back because I feel that team was good enough to go to the Super Bowl.

Q The fact that you didn't get to the Super Bowl has to be a big regret.

A That's the biggest regret of my career.



"To this day I do a lot of cooking. It gets my mind away from the pressures of the day. It's a way of creating."

That I accomplished to many other things that I never thought I'd accomplish, so that's a lot of interest that came along with my career in the NFL.

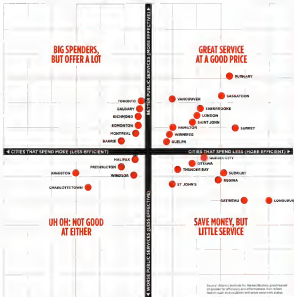
Q Would you trade your five Grey Cups for a shot at the Super Bowl?

A No. Those were an unbelievable experience for me, things that really boosted my confidence. And I don't think you'll ever see a team win five straight championships as the best in my sport. I think it'll be the last one to do it. That's a very special part of my life. ■

DOES SPENDING MORE GIVE US BETTER SERVICE?

More money doesn't always mean better roads. The Maclean's survey of Best Run Cities looked at a city's efficiency—the cost of providing services such as trash collection—but also at the effectiveness of those services. It turns out some cities spend a lot to provide a high level

of services to their residents, others spend little, and others little. Some spend more money but achieve very little. And then there were the odd horses—cities that spent less and managed to deliver a lot of service to their residents, often at a good price.



better when the data is adjusted for context. Conversely, Vancouver scores much less well when its abundant natural advantages are taken into account.

Which is the more "accurate" measure? We'll leave that to you to decide. On the one hand, one wants to be fair to cities facing special challenges. On the other hand, it can be too easy for a city to use these as an excuse

for those interested, both sets of measures are available online, here, for simplicity's sake, we use either the in-context numbers, or for the overall rankings, a blended score.

However you crunch the numbers, certain unmistakable trends emerge. The chart above compares how assessed on the efficiency and effectiveness scales. You can see they fall into four distinct groups. To the upper right, the

three top-performing cities—Burnaby, Surrey and Richmond—do particularly well on both tests; to the lower left, also near Charlotte-town and Kingston score just as poorly on both.

Yet it's the groups to the lower right and upper left that are perhaps the most intriguing. Longueuil and Coquitlam rank first and second among all cities in efficiency to run, yet are

BEST FIRE SERVICES

You get what you pay for, but there were some standouts in this category: those that spent little on costs and still offered good service. The champion has to be Our Last City, with its low costs and top grade for low monetary losses per fire.

Cost per dwelling / Grade for effectiveness*

Quebec City \$106 / A+
Saskatoon \$208 / F
Saskatoon \$208 / F
Burnaby, B.C. \$226 / A+
Kingston, Ont. \$244 / D
Saint John, N.B. \$254 / F

*Grade is measured as property loss due to fire per fire. Data for selected cities are 2005-07 averages.



BEST POLICE SERVICES

Where's the police? Saskatoon spends only a dollar less per capita on policing than Ottawa, but has more than double the crime rate. Here are the cities on our survey with the lowest crime rates, relative to their corresponding policing costs. The average cost is \$400 per capita, here, but No. 1 city for low crime, Laval, isn't shown, because data on crime wasn't available.

Cities per 100,000 population / Police costs per capita*

Quebec City \$103 / \$24.1
Saskatoon, Sask. \$103 / \$102
Quebec City \$104 / \$88
Ottawa \$113 / \$281

*2005-07 average

dead last in effectiveness. At the opposite pole, you have five of the biggest cities in Canada—Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary—which, while providing relatively good services, do not compare as well on cost.

The other notable trend is geographic. Those of the top four performers overall come from the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. Vancouver and Richmond, Quebec also shows well, with three cities—Longueuil, Sherbrooke and Quebec City—in the

top 10. Conversely, four of Atlantic Canada's five entries finished in the bottom third of the rankings. The exception? Saint John, N.B., which again placed showing paragon upon ahead of Toronto.

What should we read (as all that? Hard to say just yet—it will be interesting to see if these trends persist over time. But ultimately, it is the cities of these cities who will make the call. As Carrell puts it, "We make no claims that this is the only way to measure how well city governments perform. It's

just another tool."

Some cities did well in particular categories. Last place Charlotte-town can't claim credit that it was first in the government and finance category. Saskatoon, notwithstanding recent designation by Maclean's as the crime capital of Canada, shows up seventh in safety and protection, on the way to an outstanding second-place showing overall. That said, the safety category was the most sparsely reported of the seven, fully one-third of the cities failed to provide enough data to be counted. This sort of collective reticence, says Carrell, is telling. "It's an attitude that says 'I work for you, but you're all too stupid to understand what I do!'"

That points to both the strength and the weakness of this survey. On the one hand, it was carried out by an organization with an eight-year track record in measuring performance in the public sector. It was peer-reviewed by leading expert performance reporting and municipal government. It drew upon previous work in the field, for example Ontario's groundbreaking Municipal Performance Measurement Program, begun in 2000. And with more than 70 indicators, the chosen of the results being viewed by our weekly data point are greatly reduced.

On the other hand, there are these gaps. Some of the data we do have may be open to challenge. 66 per cent of Toronto's roads are in good condition? And a number of other standard indicators remain so our wish list, especially in the effectiveness department, for example, the percentage of council meetings with all councilors present. Police response times to emergencies. Number of days it takes to fix a pothole. We hope to include some of these in future editions.

But in any way, it shouldn't be up to us. For that matter, it shouldn't be up to the cities, each no longer different bits of data and not all the same. These are the sorts of basic indicators that all cities should be providing, though it can be a matter of course. Though Canada is hardly alone for questions in the data we collect and publish on city governments, we are far behind countries like New Zealand or the United Kingdom, where reporting is mandatory across a broad range of categories.

Should other provinces follow Ontario's lead? Is there a role for the federal government in setting comparable standards of reporting? Let's do it and see the bragging, complaining, and engineering away—begin. ■

ON THE WEB: How did your city fare in our rankings? Is it delivering on its services? Get more on our website—what's at what cost? To see how your hometown compares with other Canadian cities, visit www.macleans.ca/bestrun

LOWEST TAXES

Who pays the least in residential property tax per dwelling? Some of Canada's best-run cities, it appears, from a look at the five cities with the lowest tax. (The national average is \$1,445.)



Residential tax per dwelling / Overall city ranking

Longueuil, Que. \$665 / 5
Saskatoon \$779 / 2
Surrey, B.C. \$777 / 3
Victoria \$802 / 4
Burnaby, B.C. \$851 / 1

*2005-07 average, not indexed

WHOSE TRANSIT WORKS

If you build it, will they come? Maybe. But some Canadian cities do despite spending a decent amount on public transit, and it's not always enough to get the job done. Cities here just the opposite to provide

transit costs per capita / Annual ridership per capita*

St. John's A/D
Halifax B-/C
Windsor B-/C
Saskatoon B-/A
Toronto C-/C

*2005-07 average





BURNABY'S MAYOR Derek Corrigan enjoys Canada Day festivities. Vancouver-area cities dominated the top of the city rankings.

THE BEST-RUN CITY IN CANADA

Lean, debt-free, and offering great public services, Burnaby is a model for the country



BY KIM MACDONALD • Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan provided over a Grade 1 field trip to the city hall council chamber on the second last day of the school year. He worked the room, signing autographs and taking photos. Some council members, when city staff or reporters, he dropped the chain of office on the shoulders of a girl named Nicola, after extracting a promise the wouldn't run against him next election. "I need someone to look after my money," Corrigan said, looking to another girl. "Do you have pockets? No? Okay, then, you can be my director of finance."

Lucky kids. Burnaby, B.C., ranks as the best-run city in Canada's first national survey of municipal governments, conducted by the Halifax-based Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS), a public policy think tank. AIMS based the ranking on extensive criteria, including performance in areas as diverse as socio-economic status, crime, fire services, transportation, road and sewer conditions, economic development, recreation spending,

and such indicators of civic engagement as voter turnout and library use. "Generally when you end up first, it means you're doing well across the board, and if that's pretty much what you find in Burnaby," says AIMS executive vice-president Charles Ginnell.

Corrigan, an advocate of open government, was pleased at Burnaby's first attempt at making municipalities, even before learning of Burnaby's first-place finish. "I think it's a healthy exercise," he says. "It's important to always be questioning yourself against what's happening in other cities." Burnaby was the only community to rate a B, scoring at or near the top in virtually every environmental, health, recreation and economic development. It was one percentage point shy of its goal of earning 100 per cent of Burnaby total population, one of the highest rates in the survey. It brought out private lands surrounding its two lakes, creating, at Deer Lake Park, one of the great concert venues in the Lower Mainland. The city houses/develops industrial lands along the Fraser River and converted them to public use. Its overall cost of government, \$146 per person, is substantially below the \$216 national average. Spending on economic development is another area it also excels at, yet it has topped an A-list of knowledge-based industry sectors, including tech and video-games and the creative arts. Members of the region's development community heaped praise on Burnaby's planning depart-

ment this year, rating it the best in the Lower Mainland, "based on competence and ethical professionalism."

While many Canadian cities are hampered by borrowing costs, Burnaby is not only debt-free, it sits on \$153 million in financial reserves and a municipal land bank worth hundreds of millions more. The refusal to go into debt, says Corrigan, is a legacy of the dirty thirties, when welfare costs drove Burnaby into bankruptcy and the community was run by trustees. "We always fear for what we're going to buy," he says. "If we buy a fire truck, we immediately start saving for the next one." Burnaby is a good company. In two larger cities—Surrey to the south and Vancouver to the west—financed debt and fourth respectively of 14 cities in the survey, Burnaby ranked second overall and Longueuil, Que., was fifth, all with scores of B.

There's no simple explanation why all four top cities are from Western Canada, and three of them are from B.C., says Ginnell. "What we find is that the top five or six cities do very well in terms of efficiency and effectiveness on innovation and culture," he says. They have been able to balance economic development and growth pressures with a focus on quality-of-life issues. "They're doing good in terms of creating green space, and areas for people to gather and experience the arts," he says. The western communities have high growth rates, and such



quality-of-life amenities as arts, parks and sports facilities help attract and keep young families. As for income, Mayor Don Anderson put it: "We don't want people to use this as a stepping point before moving off to what are called the MTVs of the world," a reference to Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. "We want people, when they move here, to say this feels like a home to me."

Even top-rated cities have their share of problems. Crime rates are historically higher in Western Canada and the top cities are no exception. Saskatchewan's rate of all crimes per 100,000 population ranks second in Canada. Surrey ranks fourth and Burnaby ninth. Much of the crime is limited to localized pockets in all three cities, and when police costs and fire services are taken into account, AIMS graded the efficiency of all three safety and protection services with above-average B's.

Greatly praised both opportunity and challenge. Burnaby, with a current population of about 215,000, has the second largest influx of immigrants of the seven AIMS nations surveyed—50 per cent of the population, making it historically the province's hottest intake of refugees. In the short term, immigrants play a nation on schools and social services, but they offer a long-term benefit to the community and its culture, says Corrigan, and AIMS concurs. It sees immigration levels as a predictor of other successes. In Saskatoon, which has among the lowest immigration levels, just eight per cent, the province's slowing economy has slowed growth in the city while in the country. Projected shows the city will grow 240,000 by 2026, an increase of more than double by 2036. Despite poor housing, it is the country's poorest growth in the city.

Photo credit: Burnaby City Council. Photo credit: Burnaby City Council.

Photo credit: Burnaby City Council. Photo credit: Burnaby City Council.

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Photo credit: Burnaby City Council. Photo credit: Burnaby City Council.

The long-term solution, both Wiers and Corrigan agree, is for Surrey to move from a commuter suburb to a self-contained community, a transformation elusive in the world. "That's why we're concentrating on making sure we have jobs for our residents so they can stay within the city," says Wiers.

Meanwhile, though, the two municipalities are over a provincial commitment to build a larger to-line replacement bridge over the Fraser River. Wiers supports the multi-billion-dollar corporation on behalf of her car-bound constituents. Corrigan opposed it, warning no funds at Surrey, or the provincial government, but plenty of support at home. Corrigan is so adept at reading the local mood that his left-leaning Burnaby Citizens Association was every council seat last fall. (The party has held the council majority for 14 years.) The road bridge deal was one of the most likely to be approved by the voters.

Photo credit: Burnaby City Council. Photo credit: Burnaby City Council.

NOW THE BAD NEWS

Charlottetown's not a bad place to live, but it could be run better

Photo credit: Burnaby City Council. Photo credit: Burnaby City Council.

Photo credit: Burnaby City Council. Photo credit: Burnaby City Council.

Photo credit: Burnaby City Council. Photo credit: Burnaby City Council.

Photo credit: Burnaby City Council. Photo credit: Burnaby City Council.



PUBLIC transportation is a sore point: transit ridership is a meagre four per cent. Charlotteville did come in as Canada's safest city, though.

Charlotteville had the highest per capita economic development and infrastructure costs in the country. Quite simply, it isn't a great place to generate ideas, says Ken Gilpin, a former manager of a Royal Bank in Charlotteville. "If people want to do something business-wise that is a little different, they have to jump through city hall hoops to get anything done."

Charlotteville has relatively low population growth, perhaps because it has trouble attracting newcomers. Though the AIMS study suggests it's making strides, the city nonetheless runs an F for new immigrants per 1,000 population. The effect of the lack of immigrants, often regarded as a city's small business engine, is clearly visible: there are 45 vacant buildings in Charlotteville's downtown core. (Disregarding its setting, the city also has five square metres of outdoor space per square kilometre, earning it an F in the AIMS survey category.)

Charlotteville currently relies heavily on its heritage, particularly a few of Queen Elizabeth's, to bring in tourists. Lucy Maud Montgomery's story classic, which has been set to music nearly every summer at Charlotteville's Confederation Centre of the Arts for nearly 45 years, is Canada's longest running musical. "It's Anne chocolates, Anne shops, Anne everything," gushed one Charlotteville native about her city recently. "What is true for Charlotteville is true for Prince Edward Island in general. According to Statistics Canada, tourism accounts for 10 per cent of the province's GDP, giving it a number one ranking in the country in that regard."

But tourism is seasonal, and the lack of business punch in other areas indirectly hurts Charlotteville in the tax category. Non-residential tax revenues account for

THE CITY RELIES TOO MUCH ON ITS HERITAGE. 'IT'S ANNE CHOCOLATES, ANNE SHOPS, ANNE EVERYTHING.'

only 17 per cent of its revenues, enough to D- on the AIMS scorecard. (By contrast, Regina's non-residential revenues account for 60 per cent of its revenues.) As a result, more than most other Canadian cities, Charlotteville is forced to rely on outside governments for help. "There's a level of dependence in Charlotteville as particular to deliver services," says AIMS executive vice president Charles Carmel.

Transportation is another sore point. Charlotteville, the AIMS study notes, has a relatively efficient transportation network, with well-maintained roads and a decent enough public transportation network. Trouble is, few people are using the latter; the city bus network has a meagre four per cent ridership rate, and scarcely one per cent of Charlotteville's population uses public transportation to get to work. "There's no reason why people shouldn't get on the buses," says Gilpin. "They just don't." Part of the reason might be they

aren't used to it: the city only launched its public transportation service in 2004.

Charlotteville's are quick to rise to the defence of their city—particularly Charlotteville Mayor Clifford Lee, who took exception to the AIMS survey results, saying it is unfair to compare it with larger, more diverse cities like Halifax and St. John's. "Charlotteville is not Toronto or Vancouver," says Lee, who has been in office since 2001. "I'm unpleasantly surprised, because I think we have a fairly aggressive economic development plan. In 2005, for example, Charlotteville issued more development permits in one year than we did since 1995 combined."

The AIMS survey, notes Carmel, does in fact account for factors like population size in its grades. Even in that context, Charlotteville would see some improvement. "But being on the bottom of the list does not necessarily mean that the people of Charlotteville are being poorly served," Carmel says. "The city is well-served when it comes to the broad and better municipal services like garbage collection and snow removal. What it does show is how Charlotteville is looking beyond this horizon. Economic development and a reliable, well-frequented public transportation system are key to any city's future. Clearly, Charlotteville's future lies beyond Anne Shirley's pigtail, and its citizens need to get there—preferably on a bus. ■



JAPANESE EMPEROR SINGS PRAISES

"Perhaps people in Japan are going to view Canada somewhat differently, instead of being bound to a stereotype of being Canada, forgive me, as an extension of the United States."—Former Japanese Ambassador Sadaaki Nomura reflecting on Emperor Akihito's 12-day tour of Canada. Akihito visited four Canadian cities, meeting with Governor General Michaëlle Jean and the Prime Minister. He had not been in Canada since 1953.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AIMS STUDY

★★★★★ (out of 5)

West Side Story

with **Chilina Kennedy**
Paul Nolan

Based on a Conception of Jerome Robbins
Book by Arthur Laurents Music by Leonard Bernstein
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Katie Orszul Production Directed and Choreographed by Jerome Robbins
Originally Produced on Broadway by Robert F. Griffith and Harold S. Prince by Arrangement with Roger L. Stevens

Directed by Gary Griffin

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A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

with **Bruce Dow**

Book by Bob Fosse Lyrics and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Originally Produced on Broadway by Harold S. Prince

Directed by Des McAnuff

★★★★★ (out of 5)

"Magical"
—Sam Monda

"Delightful"
—Globe and Mail



TORONTO STINKS

The festering trash is just another sign that the city's high hopes are being held ransom by out-of-control costs BY CHARLIE GILLIS AND KATE LUNAU

The spotlights, as advertised on morning radio, hadn't come to pass. Traffic crawled well along Toronto's Lake Shore Boulevard last weekend as pickets allowed people to drop off their garbage at three glass parking lots fenced off for the purpose. Urban leaders had warned that striking municipal workers would be delaying residents up to an hour at these specially designated dump sites before letting them off—on a gambit that would have transformed the area into a zone of stalled traffic and stranded drivers. But instead of chaos, motorists were greeted on Saturday by two non-striking strike placards and morning expressions. One held back drivers for about ten minutes, before letting them roll ahead to the drop zone. Most drivers passed through without hearing a peep.

Maybe the workers figured Toronto's municipal employees strike was ending its better end. But if they thought they were getting the upper hand, they were wrong. For more than three weeks, thousands of plastic bags had been piling up at the far reaches of the Lake Shore lots, as 34,000 inside and outside workers represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees walked the picket lines, and residents quietly took up the task of transporting their own trash for disposal. The resulting spectacle is at once impressive and revealing: in a few short days, the piles at the lakeshore—one of 21 such sites through the city—rose and spread to cover several acres behind translucent snow fences, attracting swarms of vultures and emitting an odour whose foul complexity was hard to describe (rotting food and soiled diapers were just the beginning). On Sunday, city managers had obtained their second court injunction allowing past control workers to spray the keepers in piles, while the news themselves were making capacity. Yet somehow Torontonians were struggling through.

It's true. The city that once called in the army for a snowstorm is sucking it up. And while one hesitates to use metaphors of rotting trash as metaphors for anything, there does have come to symbolize a new-found sense of resolve. For years, confusion and citizens able to have put off this sort of reeking with the aroma, the city piled garbage on street upon garbage contract, seeking to buy labour peace amid the myriad challenges of running a mega-metropolis. The same sense of these agreements has been taking its toll in the past few years, the city's annual operating expenditures have ballooned from \$6.6 billion to \$8.7 billion, easily outpacing inflation and sending council into a yearly crisis as it attempts to balance its budget. Something had to give.

For the city's left-leaning mayor, David Miliband, it was more than an architectural problem. Since he came to office at the end of 2003, the 50-year-old former New Democrat has talked up the importance of cities as social and political units, borrowing heavily from the teachings of urban renewal guru Jane Jacobs. In the future, he said, Canadians will live and work in urban centers where clusters of creative activity would increasingly drive the economy. To improve the quality of those peoples' lives and to make those communities operate more smoothly, he said, we needed to spend money on them. "If Canada's going to succeed as a country," he has said, "we must invest in cities."

But if the four-week-old strike dissuades anything, it's the disconnect between this promise and what taxpayers can see before their eyes. Yes, be-hemot enclosures and new shopping strips have popped up throughout the city, but so too have taxes, making the city an increasingly difficult place to call home: the average household's property tax bill has gone up 1.2 per cent since 2000 to \$3,314 with no discernible improvement in services. Some of that income comes from the rise in market

RECKING MOUNTAINS OF garbage have come to symbolize Toronto's new sense of resolve.

'BOGUS' PEACEKEEPING?

It wasn't long ago that Ignatieff had harsh words for Canada

BY MARTIN PATRICKSON • Michael Ignatieff, Liberal leader, is torn in his adoration for the country and the people he has to lead. His recently published book, *The Next Level*, which dovetails with his ascension to the Liberal party leadership, is replete with fiery bromides: Canada and its "quicky but vitally persons" answe.

"At Macdonald Ignatieff, Harvard professor and public intellectual, was once slightly more harsh toward his native land. Follow-

ing a 2005 lecture at the University of Dublin Trinity College, Ignatieff excoriated Canadians for treating "an Canada" a "century before reputation in peacekeeping" for 40 years and for favouring "hospitals and schools and roads" over international citizenship. "If you are a human rights defender and you want something done to stop a massacre, you have to go to the Pentagon, because no one else is serious," Ignatieff said.

"In disliking any one country, and love my country, Canada, but they would rather bitch about their rich neighbour to the south than actually pay the cost," he said, in response to a question about peacekeeping. "To pay the bill to be an international citizen is not something that they want to do."

Ignatieff gave the lecture while he was director of Harvard's Center for Human Rights Policy. The talk, which received heavy attention in Canadian media at the time, reflected Ignatieff's belief that the U.S. is a force far ahead in the world. "Don't forget that the speech given by U.S. president that most astonished the United States is the president of human rights and democracy in the Arab world was given by George W. Bush," he said. He also told the Irish Times that he was taken aback by the "waves of anti-Americanism and anti-bush feeling in an Irish audience." It was in the previous anti-semitic series which followed, and which has never been reported, that Ignatieff was most critical of Canada.

IGNATIEFF said we put troops and hospitals ahead of international citizenship



IT'S DISGUSTING IN MY OWN COUNTRY... THEY WOULD RATHER BITCH ABOUT [THE U.S.]

as "a challenging liberal thinker," Ignatieff spoke bluntly about America's peacekeeping capabilities and the need to use "iron with pants" when preventing the world's vilest wars. Ignatieff had already backed away from his support of the Iraq war when he gave the speech, though he still praised George W. Bush's foreign policy as "a new dawn." Liberal justice minister Paul Martin was attacking Bush for what he said was the U.S. president's lack of "global sensitivity." *Canada certainly didn't fare well in Ignatieff's speech*, Ignatieff portrays the country as a somewhat frustrated, reflexively anti-American, middling power that has become some-

thing of a pretender on the world stage.

"We used to be peacekeepers, we used to have the capabilities [but] we've gotten worse, because people wanted hospitals and schools and roads. And God bless them, but the core are coming in," Ignatieff is correct in his assertion that Canada's contribution of army and police personnel to the UN has decreased over the last several decades. However, Canada remains one of the UN's largest contributors of international, professional and general service staff, and is the eighth largest contributor to the UN's total peacekeeping budget, according to UN figures.

Liberal spokesperson Don Lauzon, who declined to answer specific questions about

Ignatieff's speech, said the Liberal Party's international Liberal party portfolio, "It's provocative, sure, but one of our long-held positions." Lauzon wrote an e-mail to Maclean's. "Though the language used in the speech was more provocative than we would like in the political realm, I think it's consistent with our position that cuts made to the military in the past were too deep, that we're glad they were reversed, and that we intend to ensure that never happens again."

Ignatieff's speech, which has gone largely unnoticed, deserves to be given the same treatment as the war-to-which-pakistan-attack. Ignatieff's speech, which has gone largely unnoticed, deserves to be given the same treatment as the war-to-which-pakistan-attack. Ignatieff's speech, which has gone largely unnoticed, deserves to be given the same treatment as the war-to-which-pakistan-attack.

Well, Ignatieff's speech is a criticism of Canada's peacekeeping reputation, the very thing he once loved. During his acceptance speech last January, he bemoaned the crowd with a tale of being served by a Canadian peacekeeper during a mission in the Great Lakes region. "In a world ravaged by hatred," he said, "we remain a light and the nations." The "Canadian way" he concluded, was "the way for the whole world."

With Nancy Macdonald

Arsonist terrorizes tiny town

BY JONATHAN GATKOWSKI • Creelmen, Sask.—population 65, according to the last census—has a hockey rink, post office, coffee shop, general store, United Church, and not much else. But by the time its small arsonist is done, residents fear there may be a good deal less. Until a month ago, the village, situated 187 km southeast of Regina, had gone 30 years without a house fire. Now, in just a few weeks, four homes have been set ablaze, and no citizen was unscathed. "Everyone's afraid," says Mayor Don Anslow. "You just don't let it go when you go to bed."

The fire incident came on the night of May 21. A house on Main Street was already fully engulfed in flames by the time the volunteer firefighters arrived from the nearest fire station in Pilmer, 11 km away (firefighters also came in from Stapham, which is 24 km in the other direction). The house had been built in 1900 when someone decided

but the owner decided to live in Pilmer. On the night of the house blaze, the RCMP had to dispatch someone from Weyburn, almost an hour away, as two of the three local officers were on vacation, and the third, a rookie, wasn't allowed out on his own.

That past week, villagers set up a supply tent, taking turns walking the streets from chicken-dinner A.L. 150-gallon water tank and pump (not only in Creelmen but tank for a fire department, it doesn't have any hydrants) have been hooked to the municipal water, only to drag into a fire.

But in a place where no one locks their doors, the waiters in an unassuming fire station are very apprehensive, waiting for the other shoe to drop. "You just don't let it go when you go to bed," says Mayor Don Anslow. "You just don't let it go when you go to bed."

His son-in-law was just quoted. "It's not only in Creelmen but tank for a fire department, it doesn't have any hydrants) have been hooked to the municipal water, only to drag into a fire. But in a place where no one locks their doors, the waiters in an unassuming fire station are very apprehensive, waiting for the other shoe to drop. "You just don't let it go when you go to bed," says Mayor Don Anslow. "You just don't let it go when you go to bed."



So who's lighting the fire? I can't believe it's anybody from Creelmen, says the mayor.

only the first structure, a property owned by the village that was scheduled to be demolished, had such insurance.

Macdonald says residents have begun reporting their suspicions, "focusing on the stranger." In the last few years, several new homes have been moved to the area, but by society has not and the land is empty. "But the more owner, a resident for 26 years, is prevailing caution." "We learned not to trust anyone about things like this. Group can be really dangerous in such a small place."

Anslow, who has lived in the town for 60 years, has heard the same rumours, but dismissed them. "I think maybe it's somebody driving from somewhere else. Maybe over 30 or 40 miles away," he says. "I can't believe it's anybody from Creelmen." ■

A cash gift for families with kids



Changes to child benefits could mean an extra \$400 for parents

BY JULIE BIRCHALL-BRENNER • After almost a year of tugging the economic chain, Canadian families are about to get a first financial relief. Starting this month, parents will get an extra \$400 in additional benefits each year—tax-free—thanks to recent changes in the National Child Benefit system.

The changes mean parents can earn an extra \$1,400 based on the National Child Benefit system for low-income families to cut off, or the basic benefit under the Canada Child Tax Credit begins to get phased out. The effect of the change is significant, 2.4 million low- and middle-income Canadian families will be eligible for increased child tax benefits, and low-income families with two children will receive additional funds of up to \$434 a year. Parents who have registered their children for the program will automatically get the increase if they're eligible.

According to Mark Stabile, director of the University of Toronto's School of Public Policy and Government, those three hundred dollars could make a big difference to kids. A recent study that he conducted with Kevin Milligan, a senior professor of economics at the University of British Columbia, found that even small increases in child benefits mean better test scores for children and a marked improvement in the mental health of both mothers and kids.

Stabile says that implementing the increase by raising the income tax cut-off, because it provides incentive for parents to work more on their own. The resulting higher income will allow the well-being of both parents and kids, he says, and "even small changes in well-being can make a difference in the probability that a kid finishes high school." That, in turn, could conceivably have a more long-term positive effect. "Finishing high school is correlated with getting a better job, going on to further education, getting a higher income in later life, and better health." ■



IT WAS a tremendously courageous thing to do, our source says of Reeves (above). He took a risk when there was no guarantee.

THE MAN WHO BROUGHT DOWN A TYRANT

Cindor Reeves helped bring Liberia's brutal dictator, Charles Taylor, to justice. Now Canada may kick him out. BY MICHAEL PETROU

I was June 2001 when Cindor Reeves was first tipped off that his brother-in-law, the president of Liberia, had acted a score of assassins to murder him.

At 30 years of age, Reeves was already a seasoned gunrunner and had become a major player in the war-torn country. His brother-in-law was Charles Taylor, who in 1996 had launched a long-running civil war with his rebel fighters in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia that killed more than 200,000 but left Taylor in charge of much of the country. He was elected president during a brief lull in the fighting in 1997. The Liberians war also spilled over in borders. Taylor had created a proxy army next door in Sierra Leone that called itself the Revolutionary United Front, or RUF. Since 1991, the RUF and its legions of drug-enslaved child soldiers had terrorized Sierra Leone, killing and

hacking off the limbs of tens of thousands of civilians, and enslaving thousands more to mine for diamonds.

It was these diamonds that Taylor got in exchange for arms and funding the RUF. Reeves had the job of ensuring that the diamonds and gun pipeline flowed smoothly. Taylor appointed Reeves as one of his main envoys to the RUF in 1999. Often working as an aide to Ibrahim Bahl, a Senegalese war man of the 200-Sonnet jihad in Afghanistan and Taylor's main diamond handler, Reeves would escort the weapons in and the diamonds out. Taylor trusted Reeves because he was family. Taylor married Reeves's sister in 1991 and invited Reeves to live with them in 1999, just before the civil war started.

But in 2002, when Reeves was warned that his life was in danger, Taylor's fortunes had

changed. The United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone was established that January, with funding from more than 50 countries, including Canada, to try those who bear "greatest responsibility" for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Sierra Leone civil war. Taylor, who is now on trial in The Hague, would not be indicted until 2003 for his role in the conflict that consumed Liberia's neighbors. But even then he knew the court would come after him. He needed to cover his tracks.

"He started whacking people," says Doug Lee Fash, a former Washington Post reporter who was stationed in West Africa at the time. Anyone who could link Taylor to the RUF was at risk. Dennis Mingo, an RUF commander known as Superman and feared for his widespread abduction of children, was murdered, as was Reeves's friend, Daniel Turbin, despite Reeves urging him to get out of Liberia. Reeves was in Accra, capital of Ghana, at the time, but he wasn't safe there. A friend who was a senior commander in

Taylor's command unit made a risky phone call. "A lot of teams is coming for you," he told Reeves. "I gave the order." Reeves went into hiding with his wife and infant daughter. The assassin eventually returned to Liberia.

Relations between Reeves and Taylor had been deteriorating for months before. When an embarrassing story about Taylor ran in a Western newspaper in August 2001, Taylor mistakenly thought Reeves was the source and ordered that he be detained. Reeves was warned in advance and evaded arrest, so Taylor's men just let him go and he went home. When Reeves bought his freedom for \$500 three weeks later, he needed to be hospitalized. The couple moved to Ghana.

Reeves was able to patch things up with Taylor, at least temporarily. When Taylor didn't leave without Reeves had been preparing to turn against him for years. When Reeves struck his nerve, at an international colloquium in 2001, he helped bring Charles Taylor, one of the most wanted war criminals in the world, to justice. Despite this, Reeves faced an enemy man and dangerous future. Canada as in a position to protect Reeves—but appears to want nothing to do with him.

In an interview with Maclean's, Reeves described growing up in Taylor's house alone. He being under his spell. "If he told me to do something, I would do it without question. You would do it with confidence. You think, 'Oh, he has me.' If Taylor says he'll, you're happy for a month."

But the more Reeves witnessed the suffering and devastation Taylor caused, the more his faith crumbled. He began collecting documents linking Taylor to illegal border exports, weapons and diamonds smuggling, and the RUF. "The only way I felt like a lot of innocent people were dying," says Reeves. The conflict that Taylor and his NPFL started in Liberia was essentially to get rid of Samuel Doe, the previous president, but he was dead by 1990 and still was ruling. "I didn't take a moment's rest to realize that things were getting out of hand. There was much as you're living good, strong people going through this suffering, you're not happy. Look, 'What can I do to stop this?' I was on the inside."

Reeves made out an arrangement of the leading figures in the RUF and Taylor's NPFL because he is intuitive and has some education. When discussing past events, his recollections often are clear and understanding, but Reeves knew little about the mechanics of international justice and wasn't sure what to do with the information and documents he had. He thought he might somehow get to the head of the snake, then president of Sierra Leone, or perhaps go to the UN. But neither of these ideas seemed all that feasible

Then, in 2000, Reeves met Fash, the Washington Post reporter, and the two became friends. The following year Fash put Reeves in touch with an agent from MIA, the U.K.'s foreign intelligence branch. The British wanted information about the RUF in Sierra Leone, where they had intervened in 2000 and still had troops. His MIA handler contacted Reeves to pretend to smuggle with Taylor. Reeves did so with the help of Barbara Reid's presence, Blake Compton, who acted as penman. Taylor was wary. "I want to see you before I go to jail, and I want to see you when I walk out," he told Reeves. Although Taylor had split up with Reeves's sister, he still kept Reeves back into his house. Reeves gathered documents about weapons shipments for the RUF and the arrival of foreign mercenaries. He was frequently back in Ghana to visit his family, who continued to live there. It was during these trips, and also in the Ivory Coast, that he would meet with MIA.

It is possible that progress didn't play a role in Reeves's decision to spy on Taylor. A worked Mac's previous,

He began to secretly collect documents linking Taylor to crimes



and perhaps Reeves wanted an insurance policy in case Taylor's run out. But the fact that Reeves made out to profit from his work against Taylor suggests he was guided by principle. When he was making his life for MIA, Reeves did not ask for or receive any compensation. "In the beginning I got involved to help me, because I wanted to stop Taylor. If Taylor was stopped, the war would stop

And I didn't know anything about spying or how much money could be made."

Reeves linked not only one request from his MIA handler. Prior to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, al-Qaeda operatives Ahmed Khalifa Ghailani and Fadi Abdallah Mohammed, who have both been analyzed by the U.S. for their suspected role in the August 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, visited Liberia's leader more through blood diamonds. Taylor gave Reeves the job of passing them. Ghailani and Mohammed spent much of their time working out of a small hotel-

Taylor (below) one of his neighbors (below). Reeves with an evidence says Reeves might somehow be caught.



ings in a guest house that they played with pots of Obama last night. One tried to question Reeves's wife to learn him.

According to Fash, whose book, *Blood From Stones: The Secret Financial Network of Terror*, chronicles the links between al-Qaeda and the West African diamond trade, British and American intelligence obtained information that four suspected al-

Qaeda operatives, including Ghailani and Mohammed, were in Liberia in the weeks after 9/11. They were reportedly staying at Camp Gbomaha, a military facility that was the home base for Taylor's Air Force. Taylor and the South African mercenaries who trained them. Reeves's MIA handler asked him to go to the camp. Reeves did, and although he confirmed the presence of two Arabs, he did not see Ghailani and Moham-

and. Reeves's M16 handler asked him to act with a tracking device to back in their gear house. He refused.

Meanwhile, the Special Court for Sierra Leone was getting up and looking for potential witnesses. Alan White, chief of investigations for the court from 2002 to 2005, reached Reeves through Douglas Farah. He suggested to co-operate. As with M16, Reeves did not ask for massive compensation. But in December 2002, when the court discovered his life was at risk, they acted to save it. "We received notice from our source within Taylor's inner circle that he had launched a team to kill CR and his family," David Michael Crane, the Special Court's chief prosecutor from 2002 to 2005, told *Maclean's*. Like many who knew Reeves when his identity needed to be protected, Crane often refers to him by his initials. "Because of his importance to us, we launched a team to get him."

Reeves and his family were in Accra at the time, where Reeves came regularly with both M16 and members of the Special Court. A court official gave Reeves \$300 and told him to deposit his family into a hotel. Early the next morning, they climbed into the back seat of a car with tinted windows and jogged toward the airport. Reeves was afraid Taylor's men would intercept them there. But with lookouts keeping watch, they boarded a small plane and took off. Crane later heard from his source that the mission arrived at the airport an hour after Reeves escaped.

By then Reeves was flying over West Africa. A new and unknown life lay ahead. Some-where in the back of his mind, he might have recalled something Taylor had told him the previous year, when Taylor knew the Special Court could come looking for maimers who might testify against him. "These white people, the international community, when they read something from you, they will treat you like a warlord baby," Taylor said to Reeves. "If they will use you to make a case against me, then after, they will kill you."

Today Kang Reeves lives in Toronto with his wife and their two children. The man who was once responsible for slaughtering millions of dollars' worth of arms and guns worked for a modest wage as Canadian Tan would be his job this spring day to cut back. He can no longer afford the cost of his substantial apartment and is considering moving his family into a shelter. But he's glad to be home. His children like it here. He has new friends. And, he says, unlike in Liberia, the police are neither corrupt nor inherently violent.

Reeves's journey to Canada began when the plane that took him from Accra failed to stop on landing runway in Pretoria, Sierra

Leone. Reeves spent six weeks there, providing the Special Court with detailed testimony, as well as the means to protect other Taylor maimers who might be willing to co-operate. Reclusive potential witnesses trusted Reeves, they trusted the court. Farah, who is familiar with Reeves's testimony, describes him as the "Rosetta stone" in the case against Taylor, the key that made everything else possible.

"I am willing to go on the record and confirm that CR provided credible information that led to the indictment of Charles Taylor and others who were ultimately captured," Alan White said in an email to *Maclean's*. David Michael Crane, the Special Court's former chief prosecutor, gave a similar assessment. "CR was what we call a lead witness, someone who would corroborate or someone who would help us connect some dots as to how the overall gross criminal enterprise for West Africa was organized," he told *Maclean's*. "There would go out and verify his story with other assets. And it was largely correct."

White says that Reeves and his family to be placed in witness protection programs, first in Holland and then Germany. Reeves was deeply unhappy in both countries. He got involved only 200 times a month for food. Every second someone would come to take his family shopping for clothes. He wasn't allowed to wear a German, though his wife was lucky enough to get a job in a hair salon at a nearby American military base. By then Reeves had lost contact with anyone from the Special Court and often argued with them about his living arrangements when he did. He got German citizenship and grew restless.

According to Crane, however, the court did what it could for Reeves in difficult circumstances. Court officials ignored Reeves out of West Africa to protect him and didn't have a long-term plan for where he might live. They tried to negotiate an agreement with European countries, but most didn't want him for more than a year before he had to be able to step down permanently. "Whenever the news of their acceptance, we had to dance to that drum," says Crane. "He became frustrated, yes, but there was nothing we could do about it." The alternative was Reeves's expulsion back to West Africa, Crane says. "His life would have been in extreme jeopardy." Even after he was forced from office in 2003, Taylor had allies everywhere, and his henchmen were busy



"These white people will use you and dump you," Taylor once said



Taylor (left) in 2001 (above, the former president in court). If Taylor was stopped, the war would stop, Reeves says

bering or killing potential witnesses.

By 2006, Reeves's frustration was reaching a tipping point. He decided to get out of Germany, even though the Special Court had not arranged a permanent place for him to live. He left, without the court's permission, for Canada.

With the benefit of hindsight, it now seems obvious that however bad things were in Germany, coming to Canada was a mistake. When Reeves departed Europe, he lost the protection of the Special Court and became just another refugee fleeing with a map and a concealed gun. Arriving in Pearson International Airport on Sept. 4, 2006, Reeves had nothing. He sold cameras who he was and what he had done. His daughter and infant son were with him as officers led him away in handcuffs to be detained for 45 days. He was over-

ruledly released while authorities considered his case. He got to an apartment and a job and set to rebuild a life.

The Special Court gave Reeves \$300 shortly after he arrived in Canada, and two out of three lines, where the war was fought by men and boy-soldiers and made who are the bodies of their crimes. In many ways Reeves was trapped. "It is my genuine belief that he didn't like what was going on in Sierra Leone," Alan White told *Maclean's*. "His only way out of the situation was to leave the country."

But Reeves didn't just run from Taylor. He tried to bring him down. "It was a treasonously conscious thing to do. He took risk when there were no guarantees," says Farah. "I believe that there would not be a significant case against Taylor—or at least a significant case against Taylor—because of CR. He did not have sufficient evidence to go forward at a time when there was considerable danger to himself and one knew of the court was going to survive. They may have been able to build a case, but it would have taken them years longer to do it. He was the Rosetta stone at the beginning, at a time when he was quite vulnerable. He was never well protected. And he never demanded a lot of things that others demanded."

David Michael Crane describes Reeves as "a witness who had the courage to step forward and tell us the perceptions of the horror when he was older. His relationship with Taylor changed him, but also kept him away from the front lines, where the war was fought by men and boy-soldiers and made who are the bodies of their crimes. In many ways Reeves was trapped. "It is my genuine belief that he didn't like what was going on in Sierra Leone," Alan White told *Maclean's*. "His only way out of the situation was to leave the country."

Reeves entered Charles Taylor's orbit because Taylor married his niece when he was nine years old. He had to choose in the end, either to stay in the country, or not much more when he was older. His relationship with Taylor changed him, but also kept him away from the front lines, where the war was fought by men and boy-soldiers and made who are the bodies of their crimes. In many ways Reeves was trapped. "It is my genuine belief that he didn't like what was going on in Sierra Leone," Alan White told *Maclean's*. "His only way out of the situation was to leave the country."

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Reeves's fate will be decided at an identity hearing held by the Immigration and Refugee Board, likely later this year. A good lawyer might be able to argue his case, but he can hardly afford one. Reeves then being deported to Liberia. He won't be safe there, says Crane. Some men seek revenge. Others will want to protect themselves against what Reeves might say in future trials to address war crimes committed in Liberia. "If word ever got out that he was here," says Crane, "I would not give him a day."

If Reeves is deported, his life will have unfolded pretty much as Charles Taylor's: when he was forced to flee to testify against him because the international community would use and then discard him. Taylor might have been a British citizen, but was not, and he got that right. ■

story that took place over a decade in West Africa." And that, he adds, "should be given great weight to any decision taken by the appropriate authorities."

Both Crane and White led the Special Court in 2003. No one with the court today has approached the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board to watch for what Reeves has done, though Stephen Rapp, the current chief prosecutor, says he would give a full account if asked. Perhaps it is worth the murder. The Canada Border Services Agency knows Reeves co-operated with the court but didn't consider it worth mentioning in its report. It would not comment on Reeves's case, nor would Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The department initially told *Maclean's* it would discuss the case if Reeves agreed to sign a consent form giving them permission to do so. He did, and they refused anyway. Crane, among the larger fanbase of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, doesn't appear inclined to shelter one of the men who made sure Charles Taylor is now before it.

The British haven't filed a charge for Reeves, despite the spying he did for M16. Nor have the Americans, having seemingly forgotten that Reeves ruled his life to identify al-Qaeda operatives when the U.S. held out positions for the murder of more than 200 people, including 12 Americans. Reeves says he isn't bitter. He co-operated with anyone he thought could bring Taylor to justice. He never asked if he was promised anything in return, and doesn't think he's owed anything now.

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SWITZERLAND: MAKED NIKERS

Why were people in Switzerland? That seems to be the new motto of many in Switzerland, who have taken to walking the country's mountain footpaths in the middle of over-increasing numbers. But government agents have had enough, now, official signs bearing the popular hobby will be set up across the country. While the Swiss have been known for their love of the outdoors, they are now being urged to bring their bears.



German civil service chock full of spies

BY VOM KRIEGER • Between the Second World War and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, scores of East Germans were trained and utilized by the Stasi, arguably one of the most repressive secret police agencies in the world. So last week, when it was discovered that roughly 13,000 former Stasi agents are still working in businesses, many Germans were horrified.

The revelation was made by the respected *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* newspaper, which noted that thousands of Stasi were hired as legit as in Germany's civil service despite their background checks. Organizations representing those harmed by the secret police, such as the Victims of Stasiland, are calling for the removal of any former agents from high-ranking positions in the government.

Some politicians and civil rights activists also want new background checks and a full investigation of the civil service.

"Germany hasn't unambiguously dealt with the Stasi since the 90s, when people started looking around and seeing all these Stasi in the civil service," says Dr. Jochen Bredow, an associate professor



Stasi files revealed that there were 60,000 agents

at Carleton University who specializes in German history. But sheep politicians shouldn't be surprised the Stasi was showing up in government ranks: the secret police was a massive organization employing over 90,000 agents directly and using approximately 200,000 "voluntary collaborators." That's about one agent for every 50 East Germans.

The backlash against the discovery is particularly intense because it was recently revealed that a police officer who murdered a student in 1965—speaking against prison protesters—was released before fleeing to West Germany—was, in fact, a Stasi agent. But Bredow thinks the calls to start firing government workers go too far.

"Postwar West Germany wasn't able to function without Stasi ex-members and Nazi-era engineers," she says. "A society can't function without its professional elite; it's inconceivable to think that the civil service could have been purged of everybody who bore the taint of the Nazi connection." ■

Brides forced to take tests for virginity



Tribal Indian women can wed for free—but there's a nasty catch

BY KATHY ENGELHART • When 351 women gathered in Malaya Pradesh state in central India last month, they were preparing for a celebration, all were to be married in a mass rite now making its way into the village of Thabadi. But they weren't expecting what came next: being subjected to an official "virginity test."

The mass wedding was part of a new state-wide scheme to provide free marriages to the poor. Traditionally, women in India's tribal regions have difficulty finding spouses, since they can't afford early weddings and birth control. The new program not only lets them tie the knot for free, it provides them with gifts worth about \$150 apiece (100).

But a "virginity test" was never part of the deal. And according to reports, the women weren't told about the test until they arrived. "At first I had to go through the test," said one tribal girl who was among the Thabadi brides. "But an officer told me I would not be allowed inside the marriage hall unless the government declared me eligible."

Officials said that validating virginity was the goal, instead of ensuring they were performing a simple pregnancy test to weed out already-married women who were only there for the cash payout. "The test was a pre-conception measure," said a tribal district commissioner. "Last year one of the brides delivered a baby even as the marriage ceremony was on." The test found 14 women to be pregnant, and they were prevented from taking part in the ceremony.

New rules of the Indian National Commission for Women, stating "Such a shameful act, which girls had to reportedly undergo to prove their chastity to avail the government's financial aid, was illegal," the commission said not be tolerated in a state society." ■

Malaysia halts English experiment

BY JULIAN KENNEDY • For the past six years, Malaysian state schools have taught math and science in English, the international language of science and business. But that experiment has recently come to an abrupt halt. In 2012, teachers will return to using the national Malay language, Bahasa Malaysia, in the classroom.

The announcement comes after months of demonstrations by the ethnic Malay majority, who were demanding a return to Malay as the national language. They say the use of English in schools undermines their struggle to modernize Bahasa Malaysia and develop a domestic scientific lexicon.

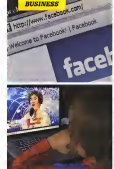
Despite the timing of its decision to drop English, Malaysian Education Minister Mahdzir Khan denies bowing to political pressure. He says the change was made because teaching in English hurt school performance, causing Malay students in the Science in International Mathematics and Science Study to fall from 10th to 20th for math, and from 20th to 10th for science. "Our decision was based on facts and reality," he told the *New Straits Times*. "We did not look at only one or two schools, but more than 10,000 schools nationwide, particularly in the rural areas where English is the second and foreign language."



The schools will now teach math and science in Bahasa Malaysia

The Teaching Profession, before the decision is a lost opportunity for Malaysia to emulate the economic success of English-speaking Singapore. Raza Raman, Bahasa Malaysia minister, professor of law at Carleton University in Ottawa, says that using local English is superior to Malaysia's international competitiveness, "especially given the importance of being able to participate in a globalized economy where English remains the primary language for business transactions."

The Education Ministry acknowledges that with the return to using Bahasa Malaysia in class, more needs to be done to improve English standards. To that end, it has committed to hiring 14,000 English teachers by 2013. ■



ANDERSON POINTS TO Google as a model for the new 'free' economy. Others say Google's YouTube woes prove that 'free' doesn't work.

IS THE WEB'S 'FREE' RIDE OVER?

A new book says 'free' is the future. Critics say that's just crazy.

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • The release of Chris Anderson's book *The Long Tail* is a book launch from hell. It began when Anderson, the author of *The Long Tail*, was accused of plagiarizing passages from Wikipedia in his recent self-published book. Anderson apologized, explaining that was a one-up that would be corrected. But that was only a minor hiccup compared to when the actual reviews started rolling in.

In *The Long Tail*, Anderson argues that in the digital age, the threat of distributing goods and services is being pushed ever closer to zero, and therefore most things will, in some form, eventually be offered for nothing. Already, he notes, the proliferation of free services online has created what Anderson estimates to be a 100-billion "country-sized economy." It's a provocative theory—and it was immediately and scathingly attacked by a horde of respected thinkers and writers. Malcolm Gladwell, author of *The Tipping Point* and *Small Wars*, wrote the harshest review so far in *The New Yorker*, suggesting that Anderson is thinking like a school "technological stopper," and his theory has little grounding in reality. Mark Cuban, the billionaire owner of the Dallas Mavericks, also nailed against the idea, writ-



ANDERSON POINTS TO Google as a model for the new 'free' economy. Others say Google's YouTube woes prove that 'free' doesn't work.

IS THE WEB'S 'FREE' RIDE OVER?

ing in his blog that the creed of "there will run companies that fail to focus on creating money." The problem with companies who have built their business around free is that it is a free ride to ruin, not a success.

Such an attack might have humbled some writers, but Anderson is taking the negative reviews in stride. In an interview, he says the criticism was "just anticipated," but "no one was wrong." He also says that he never knew his past misadventure, *Free*, most of them probably haven't read the book. He says he's right, but there's a more likely explanation for the backlash: Anderson has spectacularly bad timing. With the economy tanking, few serious questions are being asked about the sustainability of the free Internet economy. Newspapers that opted to give all their content away online are going bankrupt. YouTube's earnings have shrunk to the tune of hundreds of millions a year, and online networking sites such as MySpace are failing and struggling. The irony is that almost as soon as Anderson's book hit the shelves, many of the new free economy, the real economy, are starting to rise up to respond to it, as fast as the free ride is over.

In his book, Anderson holds up Google to counter this, and writes about how the search engine giant uses its ad revenue to offer dozens of products such as email, instant messaging, browsers and mapping applications that are all "really free-no tricks." Google can do this, he argues, because the costs of offering



ANDERSON POINTS TO Google as a model for the new 'free' economy. Others say Google's YouTube woes prove that 'free' doesn't work.

IS THE WEB'S 'FREE' RIDE OVER?

these services to an individual are marginal on the Web, which is ruled by "the economies of bits, not atoms." At the moment, this new reality has become a reality for a whole new world. Look at what's happened to travel agencies, stockbrokers and long distance phone services. All have been replaced in pretty much every corner, funded by advertising or some form of cross-subsidy. He theorizes that it "sounds over the top to use free or compete with free, one way or another." Google's announcement that it will soon launch a free operating system for netbooks (quickly followed by Microsoft's decision to launch a free Web-based version of Microsoft Office) only served as an additional proof on his point.

Critics, however, respond that Google is fast becoming an example of why free doesn't work. Although the company has yet to explain how new operating systems will make money. And the free business model of Google's YouTube video website is already a massive money loss. A Credit Suisse report estimates it will lose nearly half a billion dollars this year. The problem is, while digital bits are almost free, the costs of storing and shipping such video are very real. Bandwidth charges alone amount to more than \$150 million a year, and the report. And supporting it all with ads has proven next to impossible—the content is mostly amateur video with an extremely short shelf life, copyrighted material. As Gladwell rightly noted, YouTube

is so far in the red that if it were a bank, it would be eligible for TARP funds.

Anderson quickly shut back that critics are too quick to judge, and that Google has a plan to make money. "Which do you think is more likely, that Google knows what it's doing, or that Malcolm was looking for an example to undermine a thesis that [these are his predecessors]?" he asks. "Trust me, Google knows what it's doing."

Anderson reached on a valid point here. The media is indeed feeling threatened by Free. Newspapers especially, as they pined on the free bandwidth right at the start, grating at their content away online—a tactic that has thoroughly undermined the business of selling newspapers. But lately, there are signs that the industry is fighting back. Some, like the *Wall Street Journal*, has started to put up pay walls limiting access to content. The publisher of the *Wall Street Journal*, Los

Angeles-based *Free* accessible income," notes Jason Pridmore, one of the founders of the U.S. Web consultancy Broadlight. But things are changing now. In the current economic climate, such forward-looking is essential, and powerful success must prove that a site can make money before they'll invest.

The music industry has already proven that Free can be profitable. Many people still

CHRIS ANDERSON:
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It's safe to assume that a few years ago, when Anderson first started writing *Free*, his book's thesis would have been eagerly embraced. Companies like Facebook were exploding in popularity, adding millions of users with their free services and generating valuations in the billions of dollars. Bands like Radiohead were giving away albums for free online—experiments that were hailed as the future of the business.

Start-ups could launch a free service, build a following and sell the services to eager customers, all without making a dime. All of this was fueled by a generation that was born raised at the Internet trough, where users could take what they wanted without ever having to reach for their wallets.

But since then it has become clear that there was a glitch, profit and sales a heck yes. "The problem of saying 'free is the future' is that it oversimplifies something that is much more complex," says Mark Hoenessey, a professor who teaches business economics at the University of Pennsylvania, and whose work, ironically, is cited in *Free*. "Free, at the end of the day, has to make money, and there has to be some business model."

Part of the reason is the business fund universally was worried over that the growth happened at a time "when speculative money was flooding in and money people realized the capital



MALCOLM GLADWELL:
"This is the kind of error that technologists at universities make. They assume that their particular scientific revolution will wipe away all traces of its predecessors."

illegally downloaded music for free, but the industry is slowly weaning back control of distribution channels and sales like iTunes. The wild west of the Internet is also starting to feel the weight of the law. The owners of the free file-sharing site Pirate Bay were recently given a year-long prison sentence for copyright violation, and the site is now subsisting as a pay site. Even long-cen-

tinal advertising supported free services, such as broad cast television, are finding that Free is not such a great model where costs are tough.

Free, it turns out, only works in a starting point. The marginal cost of launching a business on the Internet means that anyone with a good idea can quickly build an audience far sooner or later, a business needs some kind of dependable revenue. "Free gets you to a place where you can ask to get paid," explains Fred Wilson, a New York venture capitalist, on his blog, 404.com. Anderson's idea of a free economy is, on the other hand, an "economic version of a perpetual motion machine," says Broadlight's Patrick.

The big mistake that growing Internet companies make is continuing to focus on Free rather than trying to run their companies profitably, argues Cohen. That inevitably leads to trouble when a business with a better idea comes along and outmaneuvers them. That's what's happening to MySpace, which is now struggling to compete with Facebook. "When you succeed with Free, you are going to die by Free," warns Cohen.

New Anderson is maintaining that it's own take on Free is actually a bit less controversial than the title of his book suggests. He readily points out the limitations of Free. "That everything should be free is foolish," he says. Free is a very powerful and modifying force for consumers, but it can't be the only price, he argues. What Anderson says is he is most excited about these days is the idea of the "freemium," in which there's a free version of a service for most people, and a paid, premium version that will appeal to a small group of users that will generate revenue with photo sharing sites such as Flickr, and Apple's iTunes applications.

Of course, having potential paying customers with less often is hardly a new idea. It's a time tested marketing practice that has been used on the Internet for 10 years, and was well codified long before the Internet was well codified in *Free*, the early version of all-*Free* had customers give free free-reciprocal books to books to make customers about this new free product. So while Free is no doubt having a profound impact on the age of the Internet, the latest economics don't seem to be damaged that much at all.

If the economy continues to weaken, many feel that companies—even the biggest, like Google—will have to abandon the practice of giving their products away for free, or gradually go back. If that happens, Anderson will be proven wrong—but you can't accuse him of not predicting what he perceives. For now, at least, asking anyone to download it on the Internet, his book is indeed absolutely free. ■

THE DNA DISCOUNT

The falling cost of genetic testing opens a whole new market

BY RANCE MACDONALD • Geoffrey Smith gruffly says the best money he ever spent on his health was a \$1,000 test he took a year ago. The 47-year-old—who sold Caligary's largest automotive service provider, PSH, for a "triple amount of money" a decade ago after a man who had died the way he lived—was up 21 miles in California. Eight weeks later, he sat down to find out his risk for developing everything from heart disease to Alzheimer's, schizophrenia to prostate cancer—even how likely he was to go bald.

Most of the information was interesting, but benign. However, Smith quickly did discover that he's 10 times more likely than average to develop glaucoma and 10 percent more likely to develop age-related macular degeneration of the eyes. So now he takes lenses, a dietary regimen that significantly decreases his risk of developing the ocular disease. He's also learned that he carries a gene putting him at "extremely high risk" for developing gallstones, so he has frequent, thorough ultrasounds to screen for them. "I can do something today to reduce my risks going forward," he says. "It's empowering."

Not so long ago, predictive genetic tests were the stuff of science fiction, but DNA sequencing is rapidly becoming a new growth area in biotech. There's no doubt that many people are interested in finding out whether they are a genetically disadvantaged athlete, or have a particularly high risk of developing a disease—the only question is how much they'll pay to find out. Right now, the tests can cost as much as \$250,000, but prices are coming down quickly and the race is on to provide fast results at mass-market prices that the whole family can afford. At stake is a whole new market that could be worth billions.

Already, some prevention are offering consumers testing packages of what might be in their genetic code. For \$250,000 and a week's wait, Atlas Sports Genetics can tell parents whether to invest their toddler's toward power sports like football or endurance sports like triathlon training. For \$100,000, 23andMe.com offers promises to pair clients with DNA-friendly mates who will give them more children and produce healthier children. Two months ago, 23andMe.com started to offer a \$199 test analyzing your risk for common cardiovascular conditions including

heart attack, stroke and aneurysm.

Such tests are essentially the Coles Notes of DNA decoding, giving you just a hint of what's inside. But as the price red of the field are cut, companies that can compete to unravel your DNA, and press on coming down here. Known (pronounced "knew") is, a firm co-founded by Harvard genetics pioneer George Church, can now deliver a complete genetic decoding for \$250,000. That may seem like a lot, but consider that just seven years ago, when the first complete human genome was decoded, the procedure cost \$2.7 billion. Now the price has dropped from

us with for a disease certainly don't guarantee that we will develop it. Most diseases result from an interaction between genes and environment, he says, and you need to understand both parts of the puzzle to gauge the risk.

Perhaps the steepest barrier to widespread genetic testing, however, will be convincing people that this is a service they need. After all, sometimes the tests deliver bad news that doesn't help you at all. Google co-founder Sergey Brin, whose wife Anne Wojcicki helped found 23andMe, discovered that he has a genetic mutation on the sheepy genes his risk for developing Parkinson's disease. The



A LITTLE spit and a few thousand dollars is enough to get screened for a host of diseases

48 million more years ago, to \$150,000 a year ago, to \$500,000 more than ago, to \$400,000 today. Genetics, a Silicon Valley biotech startup associated with Church, now has plans to sequence human genomes for \$1,000. Some scientists predict that within a decade, the sequencing technology used by known will be cheap enough to be integrated into widely available health care programs.

There are still a few hurdles to jump before we see DNA tests in the drugstore, however. For starters, some big names are still questioning the science behind the tests. Mark Hoenessey, director of public health genetics and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, says genes are not destiny, and mutations that put

35-year-old Hoenessey, who gave himself "70-90 odds" of developing the neurological disorder, had some good luck after a couple new study of his genetic underpinnings, but there's little else he can do.

Such diseases are new, however, and if you find out you have a higher-than-average risk for ailments such as diabetes or heart disease, there's plenty you can do to improve your odds. That's why biotech like 23andMe suggests the coming decade will be the "decade of genomics," and that eventually all children will know their genomes sequenced at birth. The "pilot is out of the bottle," says Hoenessey. And as the price continues to drop, that genie will only grow stronger. ■

PASSPORT-PREKER GETS PROBATION

Mike Murphy landed a 10-year probation with a \$555,000 fine and one year of probation. The 10-year veteran of the U.S. State Department was sent to a government detention facility to look at over 10 passport files for violations, including, previous deportations, and even politicians like then-senator Barack Obama. Two other State Department officials received similar sentences for the same crime.



ECONOMY WATCH

A WEEKLY SCORECARD ON THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY IN NORTH AMERICA AND BEYOND



STEVE MAIRISCH

Almost from the beginning of this economic downturn, experts have been rushing to tell us how *different* this one is from all others that have gone before. But, we've had stock market crashes, we've seen the real estate market collapse, we've seen Wall Street paralyzed by fear, and governments printing currency in an effort to avert catastrophe. But never quite like this.

This is unsettling for many reasons. Human beings look to history to make sense of the future. The Great Depression was a catastrophe, but we understood it. We knew intuitively what caused it, what policies failed, and which ones eventually worked. Japan's lost decade is another cautionary tale that provides useful lessons and context.

But if economists are right, and the current global recession is fundamentally different this time, we need to find better ways of gauging our economic health. Retail sales, employment, housing starts—they're all useful to a point. But if you want to know what's really going on, you have to look at the numbers behind the numbers.

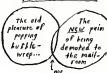
Take Canada's June employment figures, for example. The headline number was a decline of 7,400. Not too bad considering the previous four months had seen over 321,000 jobs vaporized. But all jobs are not created equal, and when you scratch beneath the surface, the picture isn't so encouraging. In all, 47,906 full-time jobs were lost, offset by the creation of 10,000 part-time positions. The numbers were further flavored by 372,000 newly self-employed, offsetting the fact that 44,600 paid positions disappeared. In other words, tens of thousands of people lost full-time jobs, and replaced them with part-time jobs working on their own. That's not many self-employed a week, is it? Indeed, as CNBC World Markets economist Benjamin Dai points out, with the rise of the Internet and an aging populace, we may be heading for a world in which a lot more people opt for self-employment than a lifetime retail shift job appearing in the job market.

Such discrepancies aren't everywhere these days. The number of Americans collecting public benefits has leveled off. That seems like good news, except that a recent number of people are seeing their benefits expire before they get a new job. Many aren't getting hired off the unemployment line, they're getting fired off it.

Nothing is exactly as it seems because nothing is exactly as it used to be. Numbers rarely tell us what we need to know. If you want to know what's happening, you have to look deeper. ■

OVERDRAWN by Jason Logan

BURSTING BUBBLES



THE GOOD NEWS

Looking up

The International Monetary Fund knows optimistic about the economy than it was three months ago. The agency expects global growth to hit 2.5 percent in 2010, after declining 1.9 percent last year. The IMF also expects Canada's growth out look to 1.6 percent from 1.4.

Lead on

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's basket of leading economic indicators suggest many major economies could reverse their declines by year's end. The OECD indicators rose by 0.5 percent May, the sharpest increase this year.

Closing the gap

America's yawning trade gap has been one of the most worrisome details in recent years. In March, the U.S. gap from the world for more than it sells. But in May the gap narrowed to US\$45 billion, the smallest in a decade. More U.S. trade goods were sold abroad, even as demand for foreign goods and services supplied shrank.

TRADE GAP
\$26B

Sold

Cashmere home sales jumped 5.1 percent from the prior quarter, and 1.4 percent from the year before. Low rates and more affordable prices are driving sales, say economists.

THE BAD NEWS

Grim economists

For Americans concerned, fear is once again the dominant mood. The University of Michigan consumer sentiment index plunged 10 points to an eight-month low, reflecting a gloomier view of the economy. Economists are also worried about the green shoots of the past couple of months. The index is still above where it was last November, when it reached the lowest point in 30 years. But the sharpest decline in June was consistent with economists' expectations of the future.

A commercial beach

Everyone knows there's a risk in the housing market. Now get ready for virtual collapse in the U.S. commercial real estate. The sector is worth \$1.5 trillion, and as mortgage defaults rise among office towers, hotels and malls

are, Real Capital Analytics estimated at least \$10 billion in loss of the market. Clayton Maltby, chairman of the congressional Joint Economic Committee, called the situation a "risky state bond" that threatens to create huge losses for the banks.

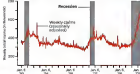
RETAIL SALES
-5.1%

Retail retreat

Sales at U.S. retail plunged 5.1 percent from a year ago, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers. Among the hardest hit: luxury stores and gasoline stations. In fact, drug and discount stores did best, showing that consumers continue to trade down and focus on the essentials. If there's any solace to be taken, it's that the sector was routinely through much of the U.S. that month.

GRAPH OF THE WEEK

IN THE RECOVERY EVENT Weekly claims for unemployment insurance in the U.S. have been an eerily accurate indicator in the past. As you can see, the latest two U.S. recessions ended just after the claims peaked. This time, claims appear to have peaked in March, prompting some economists to suggest that the recession is already over.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES



► Shopping for a new Chevy is about to get easier, and more interactive. Just out of bankruptcy, General Motors is planning to launch a program to sell cars on eBay. Some automakers already sell their used vehicles on the auction site, but GM plans to sell new cars as well. Beginning in California, buyers will be able to bid or click on eBay's "buy it now" option to pick up a new set of wheels.

► The Chicago Cubs are preparing to die for bankruptcy, according to reports from Bloomberg. The team's owner, Tribune Co., has been looking to sell the team and bankruptcy could help clear the slate for potential buyers. Like many other media companies, Tribune Co. is struggling to pay off debt and hopes to raise about \$900 million from the sale of the historic ball club.

► Advertisers are finally yielding to the social networking trend. Last year, some analysts were expecting double-digit growth in ad revenue from sites like Facebook. But a new report from eMarketer says spending may actually drop this year. Leading the decline is MySpace, which has recently gone through a management shuffle and a round of layoffs as it struggles to keep new users.

► It's been a turbulent year for airlines, and it's not getting any smoother. Despite cutting flights, jobs and grounding planes to save money, airlines haven't seen the kind of resurgence in passenger numbers—especially business travelers—investors would like to be possible. Analysts say that could spell trouble for many major airlines, like British Airways, that are already running at a loss.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE

Though countries have already committed to stimulus packages, speed- ing the recession along, some economists have floated the idea of Stimulus 2.0 as a way to keep the economy from slipping further into recession. While some favor the approach, the White House appears to need more support about its position. In the end, President Obama's new coalition on the ground will, for now.

"We're not in a free fall, but we're not in a recovery either.... A second [stimulus plan] may well be called for." —Warren Buffett, CEO, Berkshire Hathaway



"Policy makers should stay calm in the face of disappointing early results.... But they should also be prepared to call in the cavalry as soon as it's clear that the first round wasn't big enough." —economist Paul Krugman

"A second stimulus is an even worse idea than the first stimulus."

—Mick McConnell, U.S. Senate majority leader

"A second stimulus should be the one they should have done the first time, something relatively big and thoughtful." —Philip Swagel, Georgetown University

"I don't think the time is here where we would consider further stimulus spending. The key is to get spending out the door and the federal bureaucracy has been working hard and with some success to accomplish that." —Finance Minister Jim Flaherty



"[Greece] believed the recovery plan should have been even larger, and they're already calling for a second recovery plan. But... the recovery was not designed to last four months. It was designed to work over two years." —U.S. President Barack Obama

THE ECONOGAUGE

Our weekly estimate of the prevailing mood among investors and consumers



THE WEEK AHEAD

FRIDAY, JULY 16: Statistics Canada will report the Consumer Price Index for June. Little if anything is expected.
TUESDAY, JULY 20: Weekly U.S. share close will be reported. Sales have been up slightly for the first two weeks of July.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22: Retail trade figures for the month of May will be released by Statistics Canada. After an unexpected drop in April, analysts don't expect any significant rebound.

CAN HIGHER ED RECH HIGHER?

PART I OF II: Canada's leading universities want to, but big dreams call for big changes

BY PAUL WELLS

There's a pendulum in being the president of a large Canadian university. On most days you get to feel more influential and more powerful than most people can imagine.

In one week's Madison, we'll talk with the presidents of Canada's five largest universities about the challenges they face, and what they think needs fixing in our university system. It's first worth examining, however, just how big a footprint these five make in Canada, and how Canadian universities at general stack up internationally. The institutions in question—the University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, University of Toronto, McGill University, and the Université de Montréal—account for nearly 22 per cent of Canada's undergraduate student enrollment and produce nearly 45 per cent of the country's doctors.

There are nearly 100 universities in Canada, depending how you count it, but these five alone receive 46 per cent of all the money Canada's main granting councils disburse for research every year. They receive as much as 40 per cent of the money the Canada Foundation for Innovation puts to build new labs and research infrastructure.

Achiever, Canada's largest university—call them the "G5" as they sometimes refer to themselves in private—have chosen a decidedly no quality, not just quantity. All by itself, the University of Toronto came in 17 of the 20 members of the American Association of Arts and Sciences who serve as Canadian university leaders, and mostly hail the country's Graduate International Award winners and Guggenheim Fellows. The future is built in these institutions.

Which is not to say they are immune to the headwinds of the present. They face the problems every university president faces, which is that the secret they can be said to "own" anything is open to debate. Universities are highly decentralized organizations dedicated to the free pursuit of knowledge.

Almost all their cherished conceptions—tenure, peer review, academic freedom—are designed to safeguard against central control. Within the university gates, presidents are united with faculty associations, student unions, and boards of governors, beyond the gates they are buffeted by the whims of city, provincial and federal governments.

But the challenges of academic administration are eternal, as are the fins of governments. The bigger, institutional challenges facing

Canadian Club of Toronto, he called for Canada to unashamedly seek to have some of the world's greatest universities. And since they can't all meet that goal, Taylor said we have to find a way to make a naturally distributed system of universities and colleges, he said, "one in which different institutions are valued for their different missions." However? That could well mean that undergraduate education is at large research-intensive universities is

their colleagues for such talk.

But if the big five presidents are present, on one hand, with the challenges that come with their unique role at the head of Canada's research effort, they are also increasingly worried about the threat of Canada's innovation system not getting enough attention. Or to put it another way coming up with new ideas in their business, and it will always be a challenge. But promoting new ideas in the private sector's talk—really, it's a job

had its own detractors of late.

McGill's Heather Munroe-Blum is a member of the new Science and Technology Innovation Council, or STIC, which the Conservatives created in 2007 to advise them on the global knowledge economy. The STIC's first report in May suggested Canada does quite well against other big countries on university research, but that business innovation lags badly.

There's an irony here, because the five



THE G5: University of Toronto (left to right), U of Alberta, Université de Montréal, UBC, McGill

Canada's big five universities could perhaps be divided under two big topic headings.

First, they are troubled by one-on-one rules and mandates even as they have begun to try to compete, not against other Canadian universities, but against the best in the world.

Second, they have begun to realize that it matters little how well universities perform their role as incubators of new ideas if those ideas never take root in a broader, innovative society.

David Naylor, the deceptively soft-spoken medical researcher who has served as the University of Toronto's president since 2005, has been leading spokesman on both issues. In a December 2006 speech to the Women's

Canada, and certainly in Ontario, are copied or even reduced. There tends to be a sense that one baccalaureate is pretty much the same as others. I don't believe that's true or that's the best way forward. The importance of undergraduate education in a big research-intensive institution is different from a small undergraduate-oriented university. Why not reinforce and clarify that differentiation?

This is barely a general Canadian story, because it suggests that the evolution of Canadian universities into different roles should be encouraged instead of reversed. It's something we'll explore with Naylor and his colleagues in next week's magazine. But one has the distinct impression the G5 presidents know they won't make many friends among

for the whole of Canadian society—and we're not doing well at it.

"Why worry?" said Canada's middle-of-the-pack spending on research and development, Naylor told the Economic Club of Canada in May. "In Canada's disappointingly low level of spending in business R & D. In fact, R & D spending by Canadian businesses has been decreasing since 2002."

And this trend is not about to turn around.

"The majority of the private sector investment in R & D is actually done by a small handful of companies," Naylor said. "In 2007 the top two private R & D investors spent more on R & D than the next eight investors combined. Those top two were Nortel and BCE." Nortel, of course, is now being torn apart and sold piece by piece, and BCE has

not created the performance and innovation productivity and innovation, it's usually to small over secure details of university research funding. But Munroe-Blum says that, to some extent, "the fact that we've spent a decade asking, 'What's wrong with university research?' has become part of the problem"—because it detracts from broader questions about how new ideas are nurtured in the country.

But if the problem lies outside the university gates, it's an open question what university presidents' role should be in addressing it. The STIC's Canada's big five presidents, when we publish their next work, will be better to speak a national conversation than to be silent word. ■

TALE OF THE TAPE

Canada's universities play on a world stage, but often fall short

BY TONY KELMAN

Each November, for more than a decade and a half, *Maclean's* has published a special issue ranking Canadian universities, comparing them on criteria such as research, research, reputation and student and faculty quality. This statistic is, however, a pretty made in Canada affair. We look at how McGill stacks up against the University of British Columbia and where Waterloo sits relative to Simon Fraser, we don't ask how they compare with Stanford, Oxford or the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. But what if we did? What if we asked that favorite Canadian question: how are we doing? How do our universities measure up to those in the rest of the world?

A recent Canadian survey arguably the most educated people on earth. Or at least the most educated of 25-year-olds per cent of working-age Canadians have a post-secondary credential, meaning university or college. That's higher than any other developed country: the U.S. figure is just 39 per cent. What's more, the number of Canadians with higher education is steadily rising. Fifty-five per cent of Canadians aged 15 to 34 attended university or college, compared to fewer than four out of 10 Canadians aged 15 to 64. Score one for Canadian higher ed.

However, if we compare only those who went to university, Canada's global ranking falls to eighth place. We're relatively lower people than the U.S. with university education, and more than countries such as Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. But none of the countries behind us are catching up. For example, the percentage of South Koreans going to university has more than tripled in the past generation. Young adults in Korea are more likely to go to university than young Canadians.

International Rankings. So what about the quality of the institutions? Canadian students attend? If you believe the best-known rankings of world universities, the answer is they're good, but not great. Britain's *Times Higher Education* compiles one of the few



THE H-BOMB Students at more than 700 universities and \$26 billion in the bank

Endowments are the corporate equivalent of a retiree's investment portfolio, the larger they are, the more income they throw off, that income ends up supporting research, improving the campus and funding scholarships and financial aid. The U.S. leader is Harvard, with an endowment that, even after the market meltdown, is worth an estimated \$36 billion. Canada's largest university endowment, the U of T's, is valued at \$1.3 billion—about the same as tiny Amherst College in Amherst, Mass. U of T has more than 70,000 students. Amherst? One thousand so-called undergrads and maybe five.

• **Blue Initiative** In their U.S. peers, Canadian universities are generally big. Very big. This is not a point in their favor. Har-

CANADA WINS NO MORE MAJOR SCIENCE AWARDS THAN TINY ISRAEL

international university rankings, and only five Canadian universities crack its top 100, including McGill in 20th spot, UBC in 14th and the University of Toronto at 43rd. There are 19 U.S. universities in the top 100, McGill ranks below 13 of them. Amherst, with a smaller population than Canada, has seven universities in the Times top 100. Hong Kong has three, two of them ranking above U of T.

Another international ranking, conducted by China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University, features 54 U.S. universities in its top 100, but only four Canadian institutions.

What gives? The Times and Shanghai Jiao Tong rankings largely ignore undergraduate education, and are almost entirely about (sometimes questionable measures of) not domestic reputation and research. As a result, these rankings aren't entirely fair to Canada's universities—but neither are they entirely wrong. Research is not merely a part of the mission of the leading research universities. And despite the billions spent each year on research, it's not under a rose that Canadian universities are punching below their weight, at least at the highest levels of research excellence. For example, a Canadian has won a Nobel Prize in the sciences in 1994. And tallying up the lists of major international science prizes, including Nobels, Canada has won only 39 major awards since the 1940s. That puts us 12th in the world, tied with tiny Israel. Amherst has more than double the Canadian total. The U.S. leads with 1,491 awards.

• **Educators** Research is the part of their mission that universities tend to focus their energies on, but education—namely the education of undergraduates—is where they publicize, not to mention admit students, their university is all about. How does undergraduate education at Canadian universities compare?

One place to look for answers is in the National Survey of Student Engagement, or NSSE. It's an annual U.S.-based survey of undergraduate students at most Canadian universities now take part in. The survey measures the same of things—fresh contact with professors to encourage academic activities—that experts agree are most likely to result in student or parent and learning. Maclean's has published the results of three surveys for the past three years (go to www.enr.com/enr/stick-on "stickers") and they paint a somewhat gloomy, sometimes critical picture of Canadian undergraduate education. On the one hand, many Canadian universities received "academic challenge" scores above the average of their U.S. peers. On the other hand, levels of "student-faculty interaction" at almost every Canadian school were below the U.S. average.

• **Money** Canadian universities are generally half the size of their U.S. peers on two counts: they get less money from government, and they generate less money from their own. Canadian universities have moved aggressively into the fundraising game, but it's going to be decades or more before they can catch up to their U.S. cousins. The combined value of Canada's 50 largest university endowments is just over \$9 billion. That sounds like a fairly chunk of change until you realize that there are five U.S. universities that are each more

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For more university news go to our education coverage. Visit macleans.ca/oncampus

TEACHER WEDS STUDENT: 'SICK WITH REGRET'

Driven in a graduate gown and clove tie, Paul Rosenblum, a fourth-grade teacher from Maine, reluctantly gave in to his students—and played the groom in a mock wedding with a pup! The ceremony was meant to innocently celebrate the school year's end. But parents complained that the principal launched an investigation. Informed on or off the red carpet, it's a scandal, but Rosenblum says he's "sick with regret."



A new meaning to 'cabin fever'

Exposure to tainted cabin air may have real long-term effects

BY NATE GARNAL Another airplane pulled up to the gate after a routine flight from Miami to Dallas, veteran flight attendant Betty Williams saw something strange: a really bad, she says, was coming from the ventilation system. The fumes soon disappeared, but for Williams, that impact would be long lasting: since that flight two years ago, she says she's suffered from migraines, asthma, and a tremor in her left arm, as well as vision impairment and memory loss. "I don't feel I'm the only one," says Williams, who has two young sons. "It's affected me in every possible way."

Williams, now 69, recently launched a lawsuit against Boeing and Bombardier. McDonnell Douglas, controlling the airplane's manufacturing "know or should have known" that standard kerosene could enter the ventilation system, causing serious health effects to those on board. According to health action attorney Alan Brodsky, who's representing Williams in suits Boeing already—and settling the MD-80 on which Williams was traveling—fresh air is sucked in through the jet engines before being cooled and mixed into the cabin (mixed with filtered, recirculated air). Along the way, Brodsky says, it can pick up contaminants ranging from engine oil to metals.

Boeing isn't the only manufacturer that tops off the engine to ventilate the cabin, the "bleed air system" has been standard for over 30 years, mainly because it's a cheap and efficient way to bring heat, pressurized air inside the cabin, says Christopher van Nostrum, professor emeritus of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, "found an average of almost one [micro] particle a day in the U.S. fleet, and that's guaranteed to be an understatement," she says. (Plane events are almost certainly less common today, says van Nostrum, a co-author, since technology has

seaked out of most, but for jobsites, it isn't resolved. "They didn't test any day, they just kept it with some," he says. Air Canada did not respond to a request for comment. It's hard to determine how frequently flight events occur. A 2000 U.S. National Research Council survey of three airlines found that on the British Airways 146 aircraft, which had the highest rate cited, air quality index dropped up to 3.88 times per 1,000 flight cycles. For the Boeing 737, it was 0.09



CABIN FEVER, ANYONE? Cabin air could have been exposed to carbon monoxide in the engine.

times per 1,000. In her own analysis of airlines, including international ones to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, Judith Mawardi, an industrial hygienist with the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, "found an average of almost one [micro] particle a day in the U.S. fleet, and that's guaranteed to be an understatement," she says. (Plane events are almost certainly less common today, says van Nostrum, a co-author, since technology has

improved.) No fume events were reported in Canada in 2001, Transport Canada notes.

According to Clariant Parlong, professor of medicine and genetic sciences at the University of Washington, exposure to contaminated cabin air can cause long-term health problems like those Williams describes. Due to drug interactions, metabolic differences and other factors, "some people are more susceptible than others," he says. Boasting experience, Richard Seldin says that oil contamination can enter the cabin, but "to the best of our knowledge, it doesn't happen very often," he says. When it does, "our studies indicate you're not going enough to cause long-term health effects." As for Williams' lawsuit, "we don't know what risk, if any, the nanoparticles have had in the alleged event," he says. (Boeing's new 787 Dreamliner doesn't use bleed air.)

Almost no one, it seems, disputes that contaminants can seep into an airplane either—yet so far, Mawardi says, detecting these fumes is effectively "up to people's noses." Canadian standards limit the amount of carbon monoxide that can be present in the aircraft cabin, for example, but don't require that airlines carry carbon monoxide detectors. And to prevent toxic emissions through phosphate, which is the "primary chemical of concern," says Brodsky, executive director at the U.S. Air Transportation Center of Excellence for Airline Cabin Environmental Research. Why? Developing such a sensor "costs money," Overly says.

Even so, the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed legislation including a provision to develop bleed air sensors. When asked if any such sensors containing the issue here, Transport Canada responded in an email that it's "co-operating with the United States and European aviation authorities," but declined to describe any efforts of its own. As for Williams, his hospital paid attention to such a little-known issue will emerge from her suit. "I have many legal and medical battles going on," she says. "One day changed my entire life." ■

THE OTHER WHITE HEAT

In Lithuania, one ordinary crew is making a colossal "crew heat." Crew was part of a small unit of Lithuanian firefighters, but it fell out of style under Soviet occupation. Today it's not just the best of the people are after "Crew heat" is very hot and good for new because it increases sexual potency. Lithuanian resident Daria Kietiene explained "In it and you're in." Crew is traditionally cooked in a pot for 190°C.





HALLERT TESTIFIED that she took three pregnancy tests and effused out to be negative

BABY SURPRISE

One out of 2,500 women doesn't know she's pregnant

BY CATRY GILLES - It was early in the morning when Kimberly Beach woke up with excruciating stomach cramps and nausea. As the itching in her right side got worse, she worried that her appendix might burst. When Beach's boyfriend came home from work, he found her writhing on a sofa, surrounded by unexplained blood splatters. They rushed to the ER, where the nurse said if Beach was pregnant, "The uterus was as big as a small melon and it was very hard, very hard, had irregular periods, and hadn't grown weight."

But within minutes, a doctor told Beach that she was in labour. "At that point I thought I was drowning," recalled Beach on an episode of *Today's Show/What's Pregnant*, a pregnancy-inducing TV show documenting women who experience a condition called "denial of pregnancy." Unlike consciousness of pregnancy, which occurs when a woman finds the first that she's expecting, denial of pregnancy happens when she is unaware of being pregnant. After Beach gave birth, she was deathly pale. "You're missing all these things that you should expect when you're pregnant, like morning sickness and weird cramps," she said, "but I never had any of that."

Beach's story is shocking, but not unique. Although no Canadian station aired, a *Green* station showed that for every 2,495 pregnancies, one woman doesn't know she's expecting until she delivers the baby. (A *Wife's* study found a similar rate, one in 2,500.) In fact, denial of pregnancy is three times more

likely than having triplets. "The common view that denied pregnancies are ironic and rare events is not valid," concluded pioneer Jess Wood at University Clinic Chelmsford in Berlin in the 2003 study.

Of the 11 Berlin women with denial of pregnancy, 4 women were diagnosed until they were in labour or their third trimester. Many had been pregnant before, and their median age was 27. Nearly all the mothers kept the baby, and carried to full-term. Astonishingly, four sets of twins were delivered. Most of the women were employed, had a relationship with the baby's father and lived with their partner.

Strained relationships? Last month, April Dwyer, 34-year-old of Prince Albert, Sask., was accused of abandoning her baby after she unexpectedly gave birth in a Walmart wash room and it on fire. In the U.K., two days before last Christmas, *Time* Online didn't know she was having a baby "until I got to the hospital and felt the cord." Labour guru here has answers for the flu, cancer, cysts and kidney stones. (June-Lynn Spearman apparently had liposuction while she was unknowingly pregnant. And a new actress called *What I Thought I Knew* by New York playwright Alice Eve Cohen describes how her pregnancy, at age 44, was misdiagnosed as a miscarriage.

These women face one question: "How

did you not know for nine months?" as a more said on the TV show. When she didn't get her period, she took pregnancy tests for two months, and all were negative. (Hallert testified that she took three tests and some indicated she was pregnant.) Researchers suspect that some women possess a chemical that obscures the test's ability to detect pregnancy, but that's rare, says Charles W. Simpson, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan and a reproductive obstetrician who testified at the Hallert trial.

Similarly confusing is the irregular bleeding these women mistake for a period. In the Berlin study, 44 per cent of the women had their periods during pregnancy, some for eight months or longer, 12 per cent had irregular cycles. The authors called this a "warning." Another 15 per cent had been on birth control pills.

What's more, some women pack on so few pounds that they assume their tightening waistbands are due to overindulgence. Others carry so much extra weight that overindulgence seems such a growing belly or a baby looking too undernourished. Simpson, who has delivered babies in two cases of denied pregnancy, says that one patient was massively obese. "There would be no way we would know she was pregnant just by not looking at her," he recalls.

There's also the question of clergy of mind. Simpson says that half of these women have a psychiatric disorder such as a delusional syndrome. But in the Berlin study, mental illness was present in only three of 66 participants. "The majority of the recruited women were 'normal,'" wrote the authors.

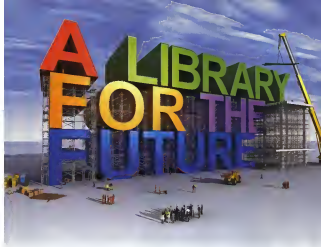
Terminations rates are associated with denial of pregnancy. Drinking can cause fetal death and malformations, says Simpson, and smoking leads to low birth weights. Without prenatal care, maternal problems such as high blood pressure, pre-eclampsia and preeclampsia often go undiagnosed. When the mother delivers unexpectedly and alone, the baby may not progress through labour properly, says Simpson, or receive enough oxygen.

That's why most researchers, as Wood has called for greater awareness of denial of pregnancy. "There seems to be," Wood has written, "no other condition so dangerous and potentially lethal to mother and child that is being ignored." Not for long. ■



SAUDI ARABIA: PRINCE GHANI GETS SHOT

He allegedly throws rocks, steals cellphones, and even leaves threatening voice mails—so a Saudi family is taking the trouble-making prince to court. They became aware of the prince after hearing strange noises in their home outside Medina, one family member said. Indeed, many Saudis love games for their support power of domestic politics. A charity has given the family temporary housing as officials investigate the case.



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THE BACK PAGES

tv

Canada's wild
"Backcountry"
P.43

film

Three fast-
mouthed Brits
P.45

taste

Schwartz's
skippy slaps
P.47

media

G.I. Joe leads
cartoon charge
P.48

books

The star of
"Dragon Tattoo"
P.55

steyn

Cold War
dramas reborn
P.57



EVER-BLOOMING LILAC WARS

Class divisions are emerging with the arrival of a new lilac. It's seen as either a garish freak or a great innovation. BY ANNE KINGSTON

summer

The blooming lilac won't be available in your local nursery until next spring, but already it's a sensation among the gardening cognoscenti. True to its canny name, the dynamic dwarf shrub spends its life by flowering in early spring, again in summer, then reblooming as the leaves turn—a hybridizing innovation that can be viewed as audacious or as horrifying. The American plant-breeding behemoth Proven Winners Plants is backing on the public's desire for lilac 24/7, it launched the Blooming Lilac in the spring of 2001 with the aim of finding that socially acceptable summer action flick. Plants were sent out to gardeners across the continent with the hope they'd produce rose reviews. Spring Meadow Nursery of Grand Haven, Mich., offered the hybrid in limited supply, as did several mail order companies. It sold out immediately, with threatened prospective buyers clamoring to be put on waiting lists.

The arrival of a blooming lilac has drawn a fresh line in the sand between the old and the new gardening guard. Those who eagerly await the special "fragrant flowering" as a harbinger of spring find the prospect of lilacs blooming again in September akin to watching a burlesque dancer perform the same act in cooler clothing—infinitely and kind of creepy. Bismarck, Ont.-based horticulturist Stephen Whitson-Garrison, an advisor as large as Canadian Gardening, was offered a Blooming Lilac but turned it down. He acknowledges the species with a revolution in lilac breed-

ing. But as a serious gardener he embraces "sequence of bloom," the hard-wired gardening tenet that a good garden is meticulously trapped to evolve with the seasons, as repeats allowed. "The whole point of living in a climate like this is the change of seasons, and each fraction of the change in season brings new plants," he says, observing that he has little interest in a stifling lilac as first approach. "I don't know how I feel about colour like that and fragrance like that in the autumn," he says. "I don't even like

autumn crocuses" (Whitson-Garrison even has his issues with the Proven lilac, a variety that blooms a few weeks after the common Syringa. "It seems out of season even at that point in the year," he explains.) He also isn't fond of the Blooming Lilac's luscious lilac flowers, which he describes as "kind of beesy, like the common lilac, but not so deep."

Nursery worker Jennifer McKee expressed even more outrage in a very amusing post on their com, noting that the arrival of a hybrid that one website described as "a flower machine for four months or there or every year!" will run what we traditionally think of as the season. "In the annals of plant world this changes gardening for the sake of catching it, I can't think of anything so dumb," he fumed.

Not all plant people are so upset. Thomas Hobbs, the Vancouver-based gardening writer and owner of Southlands Nursery Ltd., is charmed by the idea of the Blooming Lilac, though he has yet to see the shrub. "I think it's wonderful. I'd love to see lilacs twice a year," he says.

Gardening maven and author Marjorie Harris was also willing to give the Blooming Lilac a go. She planted one in her 4-acre Toronto

OLD GLASS is a garden goddess with the seasons, not necessarily at all.



LEFT: PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AGNIE CHOLEWICKA



IN THE LOOP is a gloriously four-pulsed film. The director once brought in a "meeting consultant" to make sure the credits were varied.

And now... a loopy Iraq war movie

In a profane new British comedy, the hawks aren't hogged down with such things as truth

BY PAUL WELLS • In *The Loop* enters the arena with no many strikes against it, it's hard to imagine the film finding any audience at all. It's a British comedy, with all the thick accents and obscure references that ensue. It's an Iraq war movie, three words that are interchangeable with "too offbeat to make it." It's a thematic sequel to a TV series you probably missed.

Yet in *The Loop* has one asset that should recommend it to everyone: it's really funny. As a bonus, it's a whip-smart satire on the way government works, or doesn't, both in London and in Washington.

Directed by Armando Iannucci, *In The Loop* takes the premise of his 2005-2007 BBC series *The Thick of It* one step further. The TV series was about the chaos in British politics where government action and massive communication mess, usually with disastrous consequences. So it was so much about what government does at it about the public relations staffers in cabinet minister's offices trying to explain what government does or, if need be, to cover it up. The show's most prominent figures are Malcolm Tucker (played by Peter Capaldi), the prime minister's foul-mouthed, ruthless and sane-effective communications director, and a younger PM staffer (Chris Addison), who tries to do Tucker's bidding without losing his last remaining scraps of idealism. Government ministers occasionally appear, but they are essentially bystanders who barely understand what's going on.

In *The Loop* takes this premise to the world stage. Simon Foster (Tom Hollander), a hapless cabinet minister—there being no other kind—speaks in front of an open microphone about the likelihood of the United

States and Britain going to war in the Middle East. His analysis concerns provokes public fear, and Malcolm Tucker is dispatched from the prime minister's office to do damage control. ("That's not our line. With the f-16s line.") At a second screen, minister Foster tries to take his quote back. But of course he only makes it worse. "To walk the road of peace, sometimes we need to be madly dumb the moment of conflict." Not good. "You sound like a New York Times columnist." Tucker. The minister is dispatched across the pond to Washington to smooth ruffled Yankee feathers.

But not everyone in the United States capital is pro-war. Foster's serial incompetence leads both the hawk and dove factions in the U.S. to stare on him as a potentially useful idiot. He fails miserably. This time Atlantic jitters could have let all the air out of *In The Loop*'s masterful portrayal of British government politics, but it doesn't—it made up giving the movie a kind of depth the television series never actually had. Iannucci and his writers have made a class study of politics in Washington, and they're very clever in depicting all the ways it varies from the way things work in Westminster.

The most obvious difference is the importance of the military, personified in the Loop by a barrel-chested army general played by

James Gandolfini. To the extent that this movie's fictional conflict is a stand-in for the invasion of Iraq, then Gandolfini is the Colin Powell figure, a dove whom you never thought you'd find one. But Gandolfini's character is outmaneuvered on all sides, beaten at strategy by Washington's hawk and policy-motivated excess by the visiting Malcolm Tucker.

This is a gloriously foul-mouthed film. Iannucci and his writers use an outside "swearing consultant" to ensure the crudest are authentically vulgar. Which is odd, because people who follow politics in any capital know well that swearing is one thing politicians everywhere can do without hitting a contraband.

Like the movie it most resembles, Barry Levinson's 1997 film *Wag the Dog*, *In The Loop* doesn't have any particularly keen insights into the nature of politics because it doesn't need any. Politics isn't that subtle. It doesn't require insight, only a kind of exhausted resignation. It's a freighting *In The Loop* with too much significance to say it is trying to make a point about war. It really isn't. It's just a romp, and a consistently funny one, too. But if it has an argument, it's that in 2009 the opposition and skepticism of war stuck with truth and verifiable fact, which kept them bogged down while war's advances had no such burden. It's probably not conflict that Iannucci's hapless cabinet minister finds himself in, but it's a moment of something, all right. **B**



WE'RE STALKING... LIL WAYNE

Rapper Lil Wayne is being sued for nearly half a million dollars for being caught up in bed when he should have been on stage when Wayne didn't appear at a planned concert in the Bahamas last year, police went to his hotel room and found him fast asleep. The city criminal court is suing for hotel expenses and uncovered credit following his so-should-they-wait, the promoters might consider spending some of the cash on an alarm clock.



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THE LEGENDARY delis serves out nearly 10,000 lbs. of smoked meat every week. Veteran meat cutter John 'Johnny' Conners

What's going on at Schwartz's?

Montreal's venerable smoked meat mecca is serving too many sandwiches that fight back

BY JACOB NICKEL—On Wednesday, June 10, very near to five on an otherwise glorious Montreal afternoon, the unthinkable happened: I took a bit of a freshly unwrapped *ousteron-fat* smoked meat sandwich from Schwartz's, then chewed, chewed some more—chewed for no reason—and then, naked with sadness, tossed the rest of it into the nearest rubbish bin. This was a profoundly poignant moment for someone who has been a regular at the iconic deli-cesserie on the Main since long before he could even see over the counter—way back when the sign outside actually put said Schwartz's instead of Charbonnet's. He's now 62, and he's still in Montreal, so a few days later, I rang up and broke the news to Schwartz's manager Frank Silver, who works days. "Was this at night?" he asked.

I remembered that it was. "I know," Silver replied, and he volunteered a description of his own regret: "Problems—a cancer runs a sandwich too lean, runs the meat too thick, he doesn't steam the broket long enough—you got problems?" Problems, yes. The pair of medium fets I ordered that fateful day was afflicted by all three. When I bit down, the meat beneath the eye did not give my teeth by collapsing its tenderness, but instead it expelled their advance. And reflection came time to separate that hard-won mouthful from the remaining half sandwich, a sharp tug was required, and so that, the strands of meat, and fat stretched before they snapped.

To come clean, I have been worried about Schwartz's since last summer, when I sat down alone at the counter one afternoon, and while eating my first sandwich I suddenly decided that the waiters gathered around the service counter in a quiet moment were actually talking

about, um, *gnochs*. ["They're like potatoes, and you fry 'em, and then add this stuff called peas, and then some cream..."] To be perfectly precise, the last time I was served a perfect pair of top-down medium-fat smoked meat sandwiches at Schwartz's was at roughly 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 15, 2007, when I had reserved a table for 12 for my celebratory last meal as a single man. Since that glorious day, when Silver himself sliced the sandwiches, I have endured a run of live sets of dodgy sandwiches. Yes, 16 consecutive medium-fets of which five possessed a new, unknown springiness, three were shockingly salty, one was awfully dry, and one deteriorated simply into something of a threat. Unlike smoked meat, in this case of eating keeps me up at night. For the undeniable fact is that quality control at Schwartz's has never been so anxious, and I know of many others who share my concerns.

Some blame My Diamond, the assassin who brought Schwartz's on 1996 and was quite to improve what must have been an already declining bottom line, openly even replaced the faithful life—a second branch on Crescent Street—before finally returning in the face of the public outcry. Others have suggested that quality has slipped in their new supply. But what is pointed most plausibly is that this quality deterioration that turns out nearly

10,000 lb. of smoked meat every week might simply be too busy for its own good.

"It's a wonderful position to be in but it's tough to uphold," another Montreal deli owner said to me. "If you're going to be an institution that every week has to come to, it's a lot easier to be St. Joseph's Oratory and all you have to do is keep the floor. With restaurants, it's a little more difficult."

But how difficult is smoked meat? Not very. The trickiest part is the preparation: after the drying, marinating and roasting—because the correct smoking time varies from one brisket to another, and just 10 minutes too few can yield a ribbony mess, while 10 too many can result in a brisket that is dry and stringy. And there is no reliable test for gauging that moment in between when a brisket is the tender bit when it is apologetic. It all comes down to experience: you work a few on it, judge it a little, and assess the feedback.

Given that the quality of a whole Schwartz's brisket smoked at home has been unchanged these last few years, this must be the main area where Schwartz's has been falling down on the job. I do hope they sort this out, soon. And in the meantime, I'll bring the previously mentioned, recently verified through the tedious consumption of seven medium fets in seven days: the best smoked meat in Montreal these days is not to be found at Schwartz's, but on the West Island—a trip and a half to the suburbs.—*an. @this* ■



LATEST BREAKFAST INNOVATION: BACON CONE

Swear! magazine calls it a "breakfast for cream cones without the sugar high." The Bacon Cone is three stripes of bacon, deep-fried into a cone shape, then filled with eggs, hash browns, and cheese—and topped with a bit of ketchup. This breakfast delivery won the judges' choice award at BaconCamp, an event dedicated to everything bacon. "I think McDonald's should be selling these suckers," said one BaconCamp judge.



THE ORIGINAL G.I. Joe cartoons were serialized tales with campy sci-fi mythologies—mean if they had notoriously bad production values

Bad cartoons, really big bucks

Hollywood is transforming those awful 1980s children's shows into box office gold

BY JAMIE WEINMAN • Boldly entered '80s cartoons are taking over Hollywood. G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra, opening Aug. 2, is the latest movie to have its roots in a cartoon that kept children occupied on Saturday mornings and weekdays after school. We've had the two Transformers movies (which owe more to the '60s cartoons than the toys), and studios are developing films based on *The Smurfs*, *He-Man* and the Masters of the Universe, and even *Power Rangers*, about a team of fighting droids. These shows raised serious questions about cost, and even forbade them to show any violence. But they have a bigger advantage than cartoons that were good.

It seems like the more poorly remembered old cartoons it is, the better it sells. Warner Brothers ended its series of Looney Tunes DVDs, but announced plans to market new episodes of Saturday morning cartoons like *The Hardy Boys* and *The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan*. It's because cartoon for fans and writers of such shows so often refer to them as classics, arguing that they deserve to rank with prestigious, well-produced animation. On *Shogun*, writer's DVD of the G.I. Joe cartoon, *General Warlord* from *Providence* is like the good guy's "fight against tyranny" novel based on *COBRA* is a symbol of "the Greek ideal of democracy." Cartoon history is being rewritten before our eyes, with G.I. Joe and He-Man as the classic and *Dragon* or *Power Rangers* as forgotten virtues.

Some animation fans are frustrated at the adulation for shows that exemplified everything that was wrong with TV animation: poor production values, unrelatable story setting, characters created by toy companies. But while *Manga*, who produced the DVD for *He-Man* and other shows, claims

that many TV cartoon producers only saw children, "as potential markets," he understands the affection people have for them. Many of these cartoons produced 65 episodes per season so that syndicators could run them every day, like soap operas, *Manga* says, they provided "a story that you could follow every day," and people still feel like "these characters were their friends." It's easier for people to feel an emotional connection to cheap cartoons with hundreds of episodes than good cartoons that only delivered 13 episodes a year. *Transformers* and G.I. Joe are already remembered because of the *Masters of the Universe* and *He-Man*, the TV series that never managed to keep kids entertained.

Still, these cartoons do have one quality we associate with classic: their style will keep resonating today. The G.I. Joe and *Transformers* movies follow the template set by the '80s cartoons, even to the extent of including '80s-style music (the *Transformers* movie has received many complaints about the characters of *Shaka* and *Midgley*, literature release also speak in like "f---" and "f---" and have good character traits like *Wile E. Coyote*, a robot as the original *Transformers* cartoon who spoke with a bad accent and rhymed all his dialogue. The G.I. Joe movie will feature bad comedy, over-the-top acting, and blatant

plugs for toys—just like the cartoons.

There might even be an argument that the movies don't live up to the quality of the old cartoon series by the likes of *Baywatch*. He-Man's Michael Steinberg (he wrote many of the *Transformers* and G.I. Joe cartoons) was serialized tales that "could entertain the planet. The *Transformers* were from an era of TV and then expanded on it in a four-part miniseries." The G.I. Joe movie, by contrast, had a script that selected the complicated mythology of the cartoon and originally didn't even include the old *COBRA* organization. It was necessary to please fans of the original, but they're still saying that the cartoon was better written than the big budget movie.

If even if fans are disappointed by the badly produced movie adaptations, they'll still go to see them. *Transformers* 2 was rated by many critics and still made money. "They are now adults with disposable income of their own," *Manga* says of the people who grew up with these characters, "and they can go to see the movie and take their kids with them." Studios realize they have discovered that nostalgia for childhood cartoons works better than the box office than anything, including quality. And *Manga* doesn't think it'll stop with '80s cartoons. "Ten years from now," he says, the kids of today will be grown up, and "we'll see *The Transformers* revival." Just as long as nobody grows up to be a movie version of the '80s cartoon. *The Amazing Color* ■



STOP THE PRESSES... INTRAVENOUS AESTHETIC
"Designer drug" *Stigmata*, the drop head in the late King of Pop Michael Jackson's home is a powerful and disturbing portrait of his "dark side." The book is a collection of his "intravenous aesthetic." —The West Australian newspaper on July 2, reporting an error it made regarding the dead pop star's alleged drug of choice



AT RISK: Stig Larsson died before his trilogy swept Europe, leaving behind a Swedish movie version of *Dragon* before

The girl with the universal appeal

The tattooed and ruthless Lisbeth Salander powers a Swedish writer's bestselling trilogy

BY BRIAN BETHUNE • Lisbeth Salander, one of the coolest of modern detective fiction crime fighters of recent years, was to have been the Watson to investigative reporter Mikael Blomkvist's Holmes in Swedish writer Stig Larsson's scintillating Millennium trilogy. But, as a very secondary character often do, she so dominated the story in the first novel that English language publishers changed its title. The original title, *Men Who Hate Women*, may have captured one of Larsson's life themes, but The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo's gritty take on Lisbeth's raw power. And the movie even went to the forefront of the huge popular series in the second book, *The Girl Who Played with Fire* (to be released in August), when Lisbeth—a tattooed, brilliant, autistic, super-genius, and utterly ruthless computer hacker—is framed for the murder of two reporters.

The trilogy opens with Blomkvist facing the consequences of a scandal that destroys his career and his reputation. Convicted of theft against a corrupt politician, he has little choice but to accept an assignment from another reporter, Henrik Vanger. Two decades earlier, in a dark August Christmas Eve, Larsson, a Swedish fan of English language authors, penned his trilogy with his teenage sons of the genre—the Vanger family was patterned on an island temporarily sealed off from the mainland when Vanger's great-uncle Hans Harker was killed. Now he wants Larsson to uncover the truth about this tale. Together with Salander, Blomkvist uncovers a legacy of sin, suppressed truth and murder.

But the storyline, absorbing as it is, is only one factor behind the phenomenal phenomenon of Stig Larsson, a crumpled, pretty much penniless, left-wing Swedish journalist

in who died of cancer heart attack at age 50 in 2004. Since then his trilogy has swept Europe, where all three novels have appeared (*The Girl Who Played with Fire* and *Men Who Hate Women* in North America until 2010), selling 12 million copies. The new book so far and here has done exceptionally well to, including a *Don Brown* level star (36 weeks) on the *Macmillan* bestseller list. There's now a hot Swedish movie version of *Dragon Tattoo*, and a French book about the author's life, made all the more convincing by the rumors of his play that inevitably followed the sudden death of a man who was once, briefly, a corporate force at work behind the scenes, and who also campaigned against violent and corrupt forces of the world's elite. Larsson's death, the subject of a real special issue in *Europe*, for *Dragon* book Larsson is credited: *The Mystery of the Fourth Assassin*. "It would be as difficult as trying to limit a painting by Picasso," he said.

For just past, the Larsson claimed Gabriella is "locked in her anger" and "giving" their request to take part in important decisions. "We see standard with requests for permission to make plays and cartoon strips out of *Millennium*," their statement said. "Quentin Tarantino said he would like to buy the rights to a remake of the film. We want her opinion." Lisbeth's millions of fans were Gabriella's decision. ■



FINALLY, A BOOK ABOUT... THE WORST HOTEL
Amsterdam's Hotel Brinkhof Budget Hotel proudly claims to be the worst hotel in the world. Since 1995 it's run negative ad campaigns about its facilities, including one that listed negative headlines for its most traumatic guests and another that said, in the Dutch only, "We have a lot of problems, but we're not alone." "We have a lot of problems, but we're not alone." —The *World* (Dutch translation)

One flap of a Butterfly's wings...



She was 16, although for a while that wasn't exactly true. As a famous headline in *Le Monde* would read: "Romaine Ou Romain?"

In 1963, when Shikadoe and Igy were arrested in Paris, they were both taken to Frimston, a male prison, notwithstanding Shikadoe's assurance that she was a woman. The doctors were told to determine whether Shikadoe had ever had female genitalia. Answer: no. As to the genitalia he was making, he told Anne Shikadoe:

The marriage was established in Fumet's childhood. Pierre Lodi's autobiographical novel *Madame Chrysanthème* ("Pierre," a French naval officer stationed in Nagasaki in 1836, relieves the burden of his posting by entering into a temporary "marriage" nine days after Puccini's opera of *Madame Butterfly* opened at La Scala, the Russo-Japanese war began. "I believe," writes William Schwartz in *The Imaginative Interpretation Of The Far East In Modern French Literature*, "that the

But it's harder in prison than on an open stage. They fished him, they saved him, and today he lives in a Patrick's running home. Despite his best efforts, his Banterfly, like all the others, professionalized the leading man. "The glitz is down now," he said on being informed of Shu's death. "I am free." ■

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BASTIONS OF TOMFOOLERY: France's first lady Carla Bruni (top left), Italy's PM Silvio Berlusconi, governors Sarah Palin (top right) and Mark Sanford

We must close the absurdity gap

**France gets a first lady who posed naked.
America gets Sarah Palin. We get Brad Pitt.**



SCOTT
FACERCHUK

Where did we go wrong, Canada? France got its first lady a supermodel who used to govt. intel. Italy gets a prime minister in the midst of yet another scandal—this one set off by the revelations of a woman who goes by the nickname Long Tights. And what do we get? We get a summer's worth of political debate about the mechanics of employment insurance administration. If we're not careful, they're going to kick us out of the G-8 for this.

The tradition transpired the federal level. Ed Stelmach was granted by a handful of parliament the beginning of his term as Alberta premier, and has yet to accomplish anything the spike is interesting. Brad Pitt of Saskatchewan keeps talking about how everything in his province is going to be all green and sustainable thanks to... possibly—the four-eyed son of the minister world. Meanwhile, a report in Prince Edward Island got excited recently when rumours began to fly that one of Robert Ghos's haunts had been spotted moving.

Compare this with what's going on south of the border:

In California, an Austin-born bodybuilder whose training for elected office consisted of a) overtaking several suits, and b) beating John Connors is providing over a government in rack dirt financial circumstances that it is actually paying people with IOUs. Next week, Monopoly money, followed by a return to the barrier options (Monie to Lindsay Lohan according to the Federal Reserve, a pack of smokes gets for two big doses.)

In South Carolina, Mark Sanford is the latest conservative U.S. politician to demon-

strate his respect for the sanctity of marriage by going all the way with only one of his mistresses. Reporters going back through the governor's daily agenda found that during our taxpayer-funded trip to Argentina, he was at his "sodasite," Sanford claimed that he planned to spend an evening doing "some self-guided sightseeing" (I think we can all agree, worse sightseeing for us ever). I'm not saying Sanford's private and hopes are exploding before our eyes, but Bruce Willis is calmly walking away from the movie.

In Illinois, disgraced former governor Rod Blagojevich was denied the noblest American right to handle his own life on a reality television program. When a judge barred him from leaving the country to participate in *The Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here*, his wife went in his place. Even after eating a sandwich on TV, she still qualifies as the "dumb" Blagojevich.

In New York, the man who employed Eliot Spitzer—who paid \$4,100 for four hours with a hooker, damaging his presidential aspirations but lacking the nomination to serve the next four years in Charlie Sheen's wasp—was supposed to be brought caught with a prostitute might actually increase his approval rating, especially if the polling firm happens to call Bill Clinton's house.

(That's not to say that Spitzer didn't make a contribution to society. Without his efforts, most of us would have no idea that the privatization agencies rate their leaders on a scale from three diamonds to seven diamonds. A quick comparison is in diamonds where—willing to drop its name after three diamonds—where—refuses to take off her dress (excuse me.)

And then there's Alaska, where Sarah Palin—who first stole our hearts by claiming she understood global politics on account of Russia being, like, kitty-corner to her front porch—is back with another bit of unconventional wisdom: the best way to apply for a job with tremendous responsibility, such as the presidency, is to quit a job with much less responsibility, such as running a state that's 90 per cent empty.

Full disclosure: I have a smidge in a potential Palin future. She's that full, entrepreneurs have been shaking out T-shirts, tote bags, even though embroiled with the governor's name. People are making a lot of money, and I'm not one of them. Maybe new TV reality series an increase in demand for my line of Rocky Road milk gelato.

She Palin is not to be underestimated as a political force. She got big-time credit with social conservatives. She got children, young children, CHILDREN EVERYWHERE! Plus, now that her daughter Rachel has given birth, voters won't be exposed to those TV images of her being caressed on the belly and called Rosemary by Dick Cheney.

And let's not forget—Palin has foreign policy experience! She was commander of the Alaska National Guard, her adviser kept reminding us. One could argue that no politician of either partisan stripe is better qualified to defend America from a platoon of herring.

In terms of entertainment, Palin and her gubernatorial counterpart just keep going and going. Meanwhile, the economy premier of Nova Scotia, Darrell Dexter, recently described his wife Kelly as "tall the love of my life." He didn't even have the decency to do it while confiding chance whether or eating an enchilada. ■

ON THE WEB: To read Facerchuk on the news, visit his blog macleans.ca/facerchuk

1993-2009

She wanted to become a nurse, after battling a rare and severe immune deficiency throughout her youth

out, and she was still vomiting. Gradually, however, twice weekly checkups, blood work and meds led to just one clinic trip every five weeks. By spring, she'd gained weight and hadn't had an injection in three months—"just like a normal kid," says Lynn. A tutor was helping to pave her route to John Taylor College, where she was set to begin Grade 10 in the fall, but she'd decided to become a nurse. She told Lynn. She got her first job at Sorell & Sorell's, a nearby restaurant, with three go-to men but no set her driver's license.

On May 14, Angjensen told the rights to her uncle Rudolf's—"Uncle Rags"—who wanted demolition with her dad. She was best friends with Rags's kids, her cousins. At 5'30 in., natural, she was finally stabbed in a completely unprovoked attack, allegedly by her step-cousin who, in the preceding days, had begun showing signs of environmental instability. She was 16, like Randall. "They're not the same," says Lynn. "I know it."

BY NANCY MACDONALD



By May, Anne was in hospital herself. Doctors hoped a cord blood transplant, which required radiation and chemotherapy, would help her reproduce another brother. When she was admitted, Lynn and a friend brought her long dark hair, then cut her hair off to keep and give her a bob. Soon, she was totally bald. Radiation and chemotherapy affected her hair and gave her swelling headaches. The procedure didn't take, so in September doctors tried a bone marrow transplant. First, they had to surgically remove her immune system. "She had a lot more chemo, a lot more radiation and was a whole lot more sick," says Lynn. Hospice helped with the last few months of her life on Olan. "My doctors were unsure whether she'd react to the new cells. At first, things seemed good and me. *—Gloria, age 33, Lynn's mother, Roseville, Calif.*

out, and she was still vomiting. Gradually, however, twice weekly checkups, blood work and meds led to just one clinic trip every five weeks. By spring, she'd gained weight and hadn't had an injection in three months—"just like a normal kid," says Lynn. A tutor was helping to pave her route to John Taylor College, where she was set to begin Grade 10 in the fall, but she'd decided to become a nurse. She told Lynn. She got her first job at Sorell & Sorell's, a nearby restaurant, with three go-to men but no set her driver's license.

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